

# ModernDallas

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## David Collins – “Clearstory”

At Valley House Gallery through September 24th

By Todd Camplin

Rich in tradition, David Collins exhibition “Clearstory” fits perfectly in Valley House Gallery. Like most artists shown at Valley House, David Collins strikes the perfect balance of being rooted in the past, while making important innovations and measured experiments without having to go far afield. Valley House Gallery represents established and emerging contemporary artists working in traditional media and is firmly linked to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American and European paintings.



Vantage Point 2011 – 38 1/8 x 54 1/8 inches

David Collins says his work is about memory, but I see a lot of history here as well. Collins paintings give you an overview of modern art in just one painting. The work is abstract, minimalist like muted colors, cubist/futurist like shapes, flat, but playing with dimensionality. Collins further connects through his reference of collage and architectural objects. References to point perspective help to trace connections from work made over 500 years ago.



Traveling Light 2 – 2011 – oil and acrylic on linen

History of art is an important aspect of David Collins work, but he is not stuck or just repeating the past. Collins also makes some important but subtle innovations. You have to get close to the surface of this work to see the light lines that seem to refer to architecture or core design elements. Some of the implied lines will fall back in space and other times just stop you in your tracks. This makes for more of a musical piece feel that is fast in tempo and then has jolting rests.



Untitled Tondo – 2011 – acrylic and paper on wood

Displayed together, Collins' round paintings compliment each other very well. I don't know if the curator or artist decided to exhibit these pieces stacked horizontally three in a row, but it really works to create a good dialogue between the smaller works. IN fact, the show itself is curated to inspire silent conversation between paintings. David Collins' show runs through September 24<sup>th</sup>.



On Approach 2010 – 46 x 70 inches

After you see David Collins' show, don't miss the always-inspirational sculpture garden. I am particularly fond of the sculpture garden, because my girlfriend, now wife, and I had our first kiss there. I took my wife there because I know about the beautiful work displayed in the garden as well as the rich tradition of the gallery space. The place just inspires romance.



Valley House Gallery & Sculpture Garden  
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