

JOHN SALMINEN “IN URBAN LIGHT” AT STREMMEL GALLERY

Exhibition dates: June 28 – July 31, 2012

Reception: Thursday, June, 28, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Open to the public.

On Thursday, June 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Stremmel Gallery will host an opening reception for renowned watercolor artist, John Salminen. The exhibition, “In Urban Light”, depicts the abstract possibilities of photographic references and the interesting atmospheric qualities resulting from the dramatic lighting found within vibrant cityscapes. The show will run until July 31.

Minnesota based artist John Salminen creates compelling, realistic watercolors of city life. Initially composing his images through the lens of a camera, Salminen uses photography as a starting point from which his paintings begin to take shape. Each work represents a balance of his original vision found through the camera’s viewfinder and his desire to listen to the painting as it develops and dictates its own trajectory. Striking and distinct, Salminen’s watercolors are alive with movement, light, color and pattern. He is able to capture richly complex universes - urban landscapes - that are highly atmospheric and reflective of the celebrated decorative elements in big cities across America and abroad. Salminen notes, “As a painter I’m always drawn to subjects that allow me to experiment with strong underlying abstract qualities.” With a wealth of information to be found and arranged in city streets, he is particularly drawn to the intricate subject matter of San Francisco, New York City and Chicago neighborhoods.

Salminen is a signature member of numerous art societies such as the American Watercolor Society, The National Watercolor Society and the Watercolor USA Honor Society and is the first American honored with inclusion in the Australian Watercolor Institute. He has won more than 200 awards in national and international exhibitions, including the AWS Gold Medal in both 2006 and 2010. Salminen earned his bachelors and masters degree from the University of Minnesota before going on to teach at the high school level for 32 years. His artwork has been featured in many magazines and books, including the *Who’s Who in American Art* and in many U.S. and international collections, such as the Asian Museum of Watercolor Art and the Quanhua Watercolor Art Gallery in Zhuji, China. Most recently, Salminen received the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Depot Foundation in Duluth, MN.

For more information or to schedule a private viewing of John Salminen’s watercolors, please call Stremmel Gallery at 775.786.0558. Stremmel Gallery is located at 1400 S. Virginia Street. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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