

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTERN SKIES—PRINTS AND DRAWINGS BY DARDEN SMITH

Studio Comfort Texas (SCTX) features an exhibition of prints and drawings by Austin multidisciplinary artist, Darden Smith.

COMFORT, TX – Studio Comfort Texas is proud to feature a selection of Darden Smith’s lithographs and field drawings in an exhibition entitled, *Western Skies: Prints and Drawings*. The exhibit runs from November 11 to December 31. They will host an opening reception on Saturday, November 11, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm, which is free and open to the public. A Collector’s Preview and Concert will take place on November 10, 6:00-8:00pm. Space is limited, and a reservation is required.

The inception of *Western Skies* came during the lockdown of 2020-2021 when Smith made multiple trips between Austin and Arizona to continue a songwriting project with veterans and their families. He traveled with his sketchpads, paints, an old Polaroid camera. He recorded his thoughts with his phone. He wrote, painted, drew, and photographed his reflections of the landscape, change, mortality, and the passing of time. “Taking pictures was a way to see,” Smith said, “a way to explore, and a way to push myself during this time when everything was slowing down.”

What came out of it all was *Western Skies*—Smith’s most expansive project to date, encompassing a 128-page book of photographs, lyrics and essays; an album of new songs; and a series of lithographs, drawings, videos and spoken word recordings.

“I look for humor in the mundane, the beauty and grace of the overlooked detail to make something new,” said Smith. “I’m not interested in making an exact replica. We already have that.”

“Darden creates an intimacy between the reader or viewer and his art. He moves people to see and feel,” said Cara Hines, owner of Studio Comfort. “And I want people to be moved by the artists I collaborate with in my gallery.”

Darden Smith is a musician and artist with a 35-year career that continues to evolve and grow. He has released seventeen critically acclaimed albums, toured extensively in the US and Europe, composed a symphony, scored dance theater works, written music for film and advertising and published two books. He is currently the inaugural songwriter in residence at the University of Texas at Austin. His visual art is in private and corporate collections in the US and Europe.

The exhibition and opening reception will be located at the Studio Comfort Texas art gallery, located at 716 High Street in Comfort, as well as public spaces of Hotel Giles, 717 High Street.

Important Dates:

Exhibition Dates | November 11 – December 31, 2023

Opening Reception | Saturday, November 11 – 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Collector’s Preview and Concert (reservation required) | Friday, November 10 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

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LINKS:

Studio Comfort Website: www.studiocomforttexas.com

Artist Website: www.dardensmith.com

Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/3Xb92oyGf>

Artist Profile: www.studiocomforttexas.com/darden-smith