

March 17, 2012

PRESS RELEASE***David Bates: Down Highway 23***

Exhibition Dates: April 7 – May 19, 2012
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 7 from 6 – 8 pm
Gallery Location: 432 Julia Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm
Contact Info: 504.522.1999; www.arthurrogergallery.com

The Arthur Roger Gallery is pleased to present “Down Highway 23,” an exhibition of paintings by David Bates. The exhibition will be on view at Arthur Roger Gallery, located at 432 Julia Street, from April 7 – May 19, 2012. The gallery will host an opening reception, with the artist in attendance, Saturday, April 7 from 6-8 pm.

The paintings in “Down Highway 23” are the result of a fishing trip in the late spring of 2010, the fateful year of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Instead of the planet’s finest redfish, David Bates was met with a poisoned landscape crawling with reporters, politicians and well-meaning volunteers. Through the hubbub, Bates observed the faces and posture of the local fishers and crabbers. Although wary, their looks also conveyed a resolution far from resignation.

Employing his distinctive bold style, Bates documented the resilience of the coast natives. They, unlike the tarballs, oiled birds, politicians and media, reflected the essence of the landscape. The austerity and restraint obvious in this series reflect the artist’s deep respect for the survivors of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

David Bates was born in Dallas, Texas in 1952. He graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1975 and then earned his Master of Fine Arts there in 1978. He is best known for his paintings and sculptures of the people and landscapes of the Gulf Coast, ranging from fishermen to flowers native to the swamps of the South.

His paintings are in collections throughout the United States including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, The Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City and The New Orleans Museum of Art.

For more information please contact the Arthur Roger Gallery at 504.522.1999 or visit our website at www.arthurrogergallery.com.



Bait Fishing II, 2010. Oil on panel, 50 x 40 inches.