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For Release: Immediately

## GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

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### Sarah Williams

May 28 - June 22, 2019



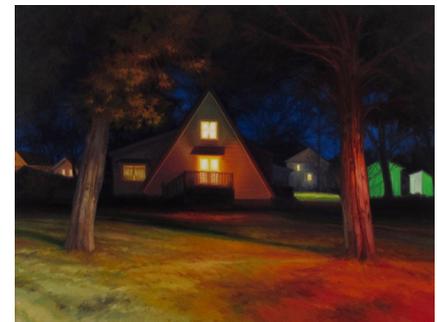
*Ringling Street, oil on panel, 18x24"*

George Billis Gallery is pleased to announce Sarah Williams and her latest work at the New York location. This exhibition will run from **May 28** through **June 22 2019**. The opening reception will be held at the **George Billis Gallery** located at 525 West 26th Street between 10th and 11th avenues on Thursday, **May 30 from 6-8pm**.

It is my belief that art should originate through a painter's personal experiences in her home environment. I see my whole life as preparation for the way I paint and the work I am currently making. This body of work is closely focused on my roots in the rural American Midwest. Being raised in a small town and then moving to an urban setting has made me aware of the seemingly

mundane, anonymous scenes existing on the periphery that tend to be ignored. Recently I have become conscious that I am compelled to paint what I know best which is the environment from which I come. My perception of a specific sense of place guides me while these local settings offer abundant material.

Strong emotions can be prompted by a place. Over time, ways of life shape and define the people and the spaces in which they live. I am drawn to areas and structures that show character acquired from the history and memory of the people that formed that environment. Aesthetically I am interested in light sources and the play of light on surfaces. This led me to paint nightscapes of familiar yet isolated and unremarkable buildings, rooms and scenes located in rural areas close to my home. I use darkness to edit out extraneous information and provide the viewer with the essence of the place. Portraying these settings as nightscapes allows me to convey the emotional tone of the painting. The viewer's location is not specifically implied because of the light source within the paintings. They must find their own way and decide their own approach when out in the rural night depicted in these works. I like the idea of bringing paintings of small town life to the contemporary art scene in urban settings. I hope my work allows people to think about where they come from and take pride in the collective identity of their home region. The ideologies and emotions I have developed around my life in the Midwest will continue to guide me on my artistic journey.



*Courtland Street, oil on panel, 12x16"*

The George Billis Gallery marks its 22nd year in the Chelsea Art district and its sister gallery is located in the burgeoning gallery district of Culver City in Los Angeles. For more information, please contact the gallery via e-mail at [gALLERY@georgebillis.com](mailto:gALLERY@georgebillis.com) or visit our website at [www.georgebillis.com](http://www.georgebillis.com).

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