



Kelly-McKenna Gallery
1308 Third Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ
201-208-5039
kellymckennagallery.com

Kelly-McKenna Gallery to Present *Fly Over* in Spring Lake, NJ, Opening April 20, 2026

Group Exhibition Guest Curated by Amy Herritt Merritt Reframes the American West and Midwest Beyond “Flyover” Narratives



Dick Wray, Untitled #1024, 2008, Oil and mixed media on canvas, 48 x 36 inches, 121.9 x 91.4 cm

Spring Lake, NJ — Kelly-McKenna Gallery presents *FLY OVER*, a group exhibition curated by Amy Herritt Merritt that foregrounds contemporary artists working across the space between America’s coastal art centers. Moving beyond mythology and “flyover” clichés, the exhibition brings together practices rooted in place yet fully engaged with a global present, presenting the interior West and Midwest as sites of invention, rigor, and lived complexity.



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The participating artists are professionally represented with significant exhibition histories and institutional presence. Their work moves beyond narrow definitions of regional practice, reinterpreting Western and Midwestern visual traditions through a contemporary, globally conversant lens. Rather than enforcing a single theme, the exhibition prioritizes material intelligence and conceptual rigor across diverse practices.

Across media, the exhibition brings together a range of approaches to form, process, and meaning. Dallas-based artist Du Chau presents contemplative porcelain installations shaped by memory, repetition, and ritual, unfolding through quiet, iterative gestures. Also based in Dallas, Robert Jessup pursues pure form and painterly presence through improvisational abstraction, foregrounding the immediacy of the act of painting, while Catherine MacMahon explores liminal space and repetition through sculpture and works on paper, examining systems, codes, and the constructed language of the “feminine.”

From the Southwest, Santa Fe-based artist Jenny Day contributes mixed-media and sculptural works that trace time, decay, and nature’s regenerative cycles, blending organic materiality with layered temporal narratives. Ruth Borum-Loveland, based in Oklahoma City, works with earth pigments derived from soil color studies, translating wandering and direct engagement with landscape into restrained, elemental abstractions. Tulsa-based artist Natani Notah brings narrative and portrait-based works centered on contemporary Native American experience, articulated through an Indigenous Feminist framework that challenges historical representation and authorship.

The exhibition also includes work by Dick Wray, a seminal figure in American abstraction whose gestural, calligraphic canvases and propulsive use of color bridge regional modernisms and a broader postwar vocabulary. Together, these artists articulate a vision of the American interior that is neither peripheral nor nostalgic, but intellectually engaged, materially sophisticated, and firmly situated within contemporary global discourse.

Amy Herritt Merritt is a curator, advisor and founder of AHM Conceptual. Her background spans commercial galleries and nonprofit institutions, including David Zwirner and Jane Lombard Gallery in New York and ongoing work with Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center. Her vision for *FLY OVER* highlights the Midwest and interior West as vital contributors to national and international art discourse.

Fly Over

Guest curated by Amy Herritt Merritt

Opening reception: Thursday, May 21, 6-7:30 PM

April 30-June 14, 2026

Kelly-McKenna Gallery, 1308 Third Avenue, Spring Lake, NJ 07762

For press images, interviews, or additional information, contact info@kellymckennagallery.com.