

“Haunted”
by Mary Chiaramonte

May 16, 2009 – June 13, 2009
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 16, 7pm to 9pm



Washington, D.C. – [April 22, 2009] – The Long View Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by Virginia artist **Mary Chiaramonte** entitled “Haunted.”

Mary Chiaramonte grew up in rural West Virginia. With little social interaction beyond her immediate family, Mary spent her days drawing and painting. Her isolation as a child created a fascination with the lives of others that fill her artwork to this day.

Mary’s works are studies of people with whom she is connected, be they friends, family or characters from a song. She tells their stories through painted snapshots. For Mary, the eyes are not the windows to the soul; instead, her soulful work is characterized by figures with no faces but as forms to be studied and felt. Much of Mary’s work is, in-part, self-portraiture: she uses the narratives of her subjects to help translate events of her own life, allowing her an added connection to the paintings. By hiding the most recognizable feature of her subjects, their faces, the works become less about a specific person and more about a universal feeling or experience, allowing each of us to place ourselves in that space. Mary’s ability to capture emotion through the human form gives her otherwise haunting “headless” figures a relatable quality.

Mary’s work is held in public and private collections across the United States. She has exhibited throughout the east coast, including visits to the Affordable Art Fair in NYC and several solo shows in Washington, D.C. Mary has been written up in several local publications, including The Washington Post, The Eye Magazine and Art Buzz.