

# Ana Fernandez

## Staged



**October 13 – November 10, 2012**  
**Artist's reception: Saturday, October 13, 7 – 10 pm,**

L2kontemporary is pleased to present the first solo exhibition at the gallery from San Antonio based artist Ana Fernandez. Fernandez, who earned her BFA from the Art Institute of Chicago and her MFA from UCLA, will be featuring recent works from her on-going series that revolves around "...some of my favorite subjects: magic, true crime, paranormal activity, sex, murder, occult, mythology, witchcraft and superstition all set in the neighborhoods of my hometown."

While the content of Fernandez's paintings may include themes such as true crime, sex and mythology, the places and objects depicted in the works themselves exist and function visually more like the curtain behind which the Wizard of OZ toiled. There are plenty of little homes, storefronts and vehicles to be seen, but very few, if any, people. The sense of Hopper-like emptiness is enhanced in many of the paintings by an evening or night setting. As you look at the house or car, you soon realize that the place or object in the painting is not what is calling you to keep looking. One finds oneself asking what might be taking place behind the walls or doors. What happened there yesterday? Last week? What secrets and stories are lurking there waiting to be found out? The psychology of each painting is overwhelming.

Fernandez says that these are the types of homes and places within which you feel that you have left something behind and you need to go in and retrieve it. But these facades and vehicles very much have, as Fernandez puts it, a true crime feel to them, and an even stronger mythological feel. There is an element of Caspar David Friedrich to much of the work. The homes and vehicles invite you in, but you are not sure you should enter. As with Friedrich's *The Chasseur in The Forest*, something is not quite correct, but you are being called inside anyway.