

# offramp gallery

contemporary art in an historic house

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## Lisa Adams: Born This Way

September 11 - October 9, 2011

Opening Reception, Sunday, September 11, 2-5pm

Artist's Talk, *Vicissitude of Circumstance* Book Signing & Closing Reception

Sunday, October 9, 2-5pm

### Lisa Adams

#### [Resume](#)

#### [Press Release](#)

Offramp Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition,

Each of the 16 never-before-seen gouaches included in ***Born This Way*** is a small gem revealing the artist unplugged, as it were. Adams lets the fortuitous bleeds and drips of a water-based medium form abstract elements in her work, which in turn inform more deliberate representational images. Plants, flowers and birds are juxtaposed with geometric shapes and fragments of an often scarred landscape forming a tension between the natural, imaginary and manmade worlds -- all of which Adams seems to effortlessly inhabit. The intimate domestic and garden setting of Offramp Gallery provides the perfect backdrop for these small works.

In her artist's statement, Adams says of ***Born This Way***: "The interesting thing about doing small work is that the ideas are no less potent but the body and time investment is, that is to say, the ideas travel faster in small work because the execution time is less. It's the best way I know to keep advancing one's vision, because these small gouache paintings are more than simply ideas of the thing—they are, in and of themselves, complete works of art, fully resolved both conceptually as well as visually."

Offramp Gallery will host a book signing for Adams' forthcoming monograph book, *Vicissitude of Circumstance*, artist's talk and closing reception on Sunday, October 9 from 2-5pm. *Vicissitude of Circumstance* is being published by **ZERO+ Publishing**, with a release date of mid-September, 2011. Pre-order *Vicissitude of Circumstance*, and get a 30% discount by [clicking here](#).



### Artist's Statement

***Born This Way*** is not a comment on Lady Gaga's new CD nor did the pop star inspire my exhibition. ***Born This Way*** is a comment on a life outside the mainstream. Not all artists live in that fringe zone, but some do. I do. This status has given me the opportunity to create, propagate and advance an imagined construct—a richly populated world, through which I am able to communicate. Sounds strange? Not to someone who is able to speak the language.

I've developed a trove of imagery—both representational and non-representational— and used as a lexicon, I express and comment on important current issues and ideas. My main focus is human interface with the natural world and my acceptance of things the way they are—meaning an attitude accepting of imperfection's guiding light.

My studio practice consists exclusively of oil paintings—some very

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Offramp Gallery will host a book signing during **Lisa Adams: Born This Way**, Sunday, October 9, 2-3pm. [Click here to pre-order](#).

large and some small. As an adjunct to this work, I love making diminutive gouache paintings. They are like miniatures of the species, employing a similar vernacular, while displaying the same fierceness as their larger kin.

Manipulating gouache is very different than manipulating oil paint but more notable is the scale. When I make the miniature work my mind and focus are entirely different, with the most critical demand being my ability to focus entirely on something that small. I have the experience of working with only my eyes and mind almost as if no body were attached—this experience is heightened by sitting versus standing when creating the work.

The interesting thing about doing small work is that the ideas are no less potent but the body and time investment is, that is to say, the ideas travel faster in small work because the execution time is less. It's the best way I know to keep advancing one's vision, because these small gouache paintings are more than simply ideas of the thing—they are, in and of themselves, complete works of art, fully resolved both conceptually as well as visually.

**Lisa Adams**  
June 2011



**LISA ADAMS:  
VICISSITUDE OF  
CIRCUMSTANCE**  
*LISA ADAMS: VICISSITUDE OF  
CIRCUMSTANCE* surveys the  
seductive, shape-shifting psyche  
within Lisa Adams' haunting, mentally  
charged paintings. Almost cinematic in  
their dream-like construction of  
unexpected narrative and reclusive  
symbolism, the works document  
memory in strange and beautiful ways.  
Meaning unfurls in time lapse, both  
infused with a sense of rapid-fire  
immediacy and expansive timelessness.

\$40.00

Offramp Gallery • 1702 Lincoln Avenue • Pasadena, CA 91103 • 626.298.6931

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