



"GIANT," 2011, **Will Henry**, OIL ON CANVAS, 30" x 72"

PHOTO: COURTESY HIRAM BUTLER GALLERY

Critic's Picks

Will Henry

at Hiram Butler Gallery

Houston-based artist **Will Henry** continues to cast his beautifully painted Southwestern landscapes, with their vast, arid terrain and starry skies, as surreal spaces where Marfa meets Magritte, often against a nocturnal backdrop that could have been painted by Frederic Remington. Echoes of Ed Ruscha, too, show up in Henry's playful variations on Ruscha's depictions of the iconic Hollywood sign. In one of the best works of Henry's previous Houston show, the sign, seen from behind, actually spelled "Howdy y'all" minus the apostrophe. In *Giant*, a 2011 painting, the wooden letters return, spelling "Judd" in a reference to the minimalist sculptor and Chinati Foundation founder. *Giant* was recently featured in Henry's AMOA-Arthouse exhibition celebrating his well-earned nomination for the triennial Texas Prize; it's joined by

the other works from that show in Henry's latest Hiram Butler Gallery exhibit, including "Installation," which depicts a campfire using fluorescent light bulbs à la Dan Flavin—another Chinati artist—as kindling. Previously, Henry has worked primarily with gouache on paper, but lately he's switched to oil on canvas and increased the size of his pictures. Henry handles the change in medium, support and scale with confidence, and his canvases will be easier to view in Butler's light-filled gallery than his framed works on paper. "Will Henry: New Work" will be on view September 29 through November 3 at Hiram Butler Gallery.