

MATTHEW CORNELL

Roadside Attractions

Matthew Cornell's life has been a journey. As a boy, his family took road trips and he had the opportunity to see the variety that is America. The family often moved as well. He says, "I've lived in so many places that as I got older I lost the sense of where I belong." For a period in his painting career, he set out to paint every house and neighborhood he had lived in as well as the childhood and retirement homes of his parents.

He is fond of the mysterious light of dusk and dawn in which he often paints houses and small town street scenes. "Landscapes at this hour are like ghosts that are unseen during the day," he says, "only to be revealed by the strange and myriad ways the lights in a house have come on at dusk and security lights illumine its parking area. His scenes are devoid of people but their presence is felt. The warm light in the windows suggests a family at home and the basketball hoop just outside the light suggests an unrealized or unrealizable dream.

The painting is in the exhibition of his new paintings, *Roadside Attractions*, at Arcadia Contemporary in Pasadena, California, June 1 through 21.

"It is out on the open road that I find



1
Beethoven's Garage,
oil on panel, 7 x 7"

2
Hoop Dreams, oil on
panel, 6¼ x 9¼"

3
Closed for the Season,
oil on panel, 7 x 7"



inspiration," he comments. "I love being out on the small highways looking for something, anything to inspire me. There is so much to see and encounter."

He also likes encountering various

kinds of weather, especially storms. A storm is arising in *Closed for the Season*. A family produce business and café have brought in their annual income and wait for another season while the rain

continues to replenish the soil. ●

Arcadia Contemporary 39 E. Colorado
Boulevard • Pasadena, CA 91105 • (626) 486-2018 •
www.arcadiacontemporary.com