

# SETTLEMENT

The background is a dark, monochromatic painting of a frontier settlement. It features several wooden buildings, including a large log cabin in the foreground on the left, a long barn in the middle ground, and a smaller house on the right. A lone figure stands in the vast, desolate landscape between the buildings. The overall mood is somber and historical.

**TOM JUDD**

Presented by Sandler Hudson Gallery



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Essay by Brookes Britcher

Wallet. Phone. Keys. A benign, reflexive gesture most have ritualized before leaving home today. No matter how brief or inconsequential the journey, these are our necessities to embark with a sense of security. Wallet, as a means to participate in established trading. Phone, as a device to communicate - no matter the distance. Key, to warranty we will be able to safely return "home", our property intact. Assurances such as these were not afforded to early travelers seeking new livelihood in the expansive American West.

*Settlement* by Tom Judd offers an ominous depiction of the early American communities born of westward expansion. While confronting unforgiving landscapes, conflicts with indigenous peoples, disease, fatigue, finite resources and limited technology, encampments and towns were miraculously created. In villages on the banks of scornful rivers or in the long shadows of foreboding mountains, new American stories began. Judd is eager to remind us that the romance oft

applied to these pioneering settlers is perhaps more fable than fact. In the process he mends his own imaginative fictions into the fabric of the narrative, moving from idyllic portrayals to dramatic catastrophe. His desire to explore his affinity for the mythology of the era and square it against its harsh realities are evident.

*Settlement* is a reflection on the hazards undertaken by a brave few to establish a new home, a new community, in an unforgiving landscape with no blueprint for sustainability. Judd elects to vignette the structures of this moment, as families encroach into unfamiliar territory. In many instances, the buildings and fences Judd depicts appear as out of place as their inhabitants surely felt in their new existence. The imagery he recalls resonates beyond a vague romanticism for intrepid heroic characters attempting to tame new lands, but rests on the story of our common frailty. What we bring with us is what we have. What we have when we arrive remains to be seen. What we do with what is left is up to us. Together we will remain or be lost.



*Flood*, Tom Judd, 2018, 39 x 32 in., Oil on Panel



*Imagined Curse*, Tom Judd, 2017, 39 x30 in., Oil on Panel



*The Place*, 2017, Tom Judd, 60 x 50 in., Oil on Canvas



*Encampment*, 2019, Tom Judd, 108 x 72 in., Oil on Canvas



*Settlement*, 2018, Tom Judd, 60 x 40 in., Oil on Canvas





*Settlement #2*, 2019, Tom Judd, 93 x 70 in., Oil on Canvas



*The Great Flood*, 2019, Tom Judd, 14 x 11 in., Oil on Panel



Cottage, 2019, Tom Judd, 16x14 in., Oil on Panel



*The Heartland*, 2019, Tom Judd, 16 x 14 in., Oil on Panel



*Bid Muddy*, 2019, Tom Judd, 16 x 14 in., Oil on Panel



Near the River, 2019, Tom Judd, 12 x 9 in., Oil on Panel



*Lake House*, 2019, Tom Judd, 16x14 in., Oil on Panel



*Vacation House*, 2017, Tom Judd, 36 x 48 in., Oil on Canvas



*Vacation House #2*, 2019, Tom Judd, 39 x 32 in., Oil on Canvas

The logo for Sandler Hudson Gallery is located in the top right corner. It consists of the text "SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY" in a white, serif font, centered within a solid orange square. Below the text, there are two horizontal bars of varying lengths, one in a darker orange and one in a lighter orange, creating a stylized graphic element.

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Exhibition Date: **January 24 - March 7, 2020**

Reception: **Friday, January 24, 2020, 7 - 9 PM**

Address: **1000 Marietta Street NW, Suite 116, Atlanta, GA 30318**

**SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY**

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