

**MEDIA RELEASE**

For more information contact:  
Deborah M. Colton 713-869-5151  
info@deborahcoltongallery.com

## ArtHouston Exhibitions

Jenny Schlief: *Mature Milk and Beautiful Beasts*

Raymond Uhlir: *Hooray for Sanctimony: A Calvinist Adventure through the Sophist Temple of Doom*

Jason Villegas: *Absolute Destiny Apocalypse*

Jeremy Eilers: *Land of Eternal Vigilance*

June 9th to August 18th, 2005

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 9th, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

**Deborah Cotton Gallery** is pleased to present the solo exhibitions of 4 emerging local Texas artists, **Jeremy Eilers, Jenny Schlief, Raymond Uhlir, and Jason Villegas**. The three solo exhibitions of Jenny Schlief, Raymond Uhlir, and Jason Villegas will be inside the Deborah Colton Gallery. Jeremy Eilers will participate in a satellite exhibition held at the offsite location at Vlfinter St. Studios Gallery. Both locations will open the same night from 6 - 9pm.

Jenny Schlief is an artist living and working in Houston, TX. Constructing a world through personal imagery and relational symbolism, Schliefs major thematical structures hint at loss of innocence and sexual tensions found in society. In this particular exhibition using video to works on paper, she has developed two major symbols to act as relational liaisons between the works: "Milk and fantastical beasts here act as representations/manifestations of desire, escapism and innocence. Milk derives comfort, and ideas of nurture. If neglected, the delicate liquid is spoilt and rotten. Beasts evoking danger or magic are contextually bound in the history of myths. Contradictions abound themselves inside my reality driven fairy tale: reallfantasy, fear/comfort, stronglweak, and younglold.'

Raymond Uhlir, a graduate of the University of Texas, lives and works in Austin, TX. He has shown in various locations around Austin and this is his first solo exhibition in Houston. Through a collection of beautifully rendered drawings and paintings, Uhlir unfolds an astounding cosmological narrative through a bevy of characters and cataclysmic situations. Uhlir asks the question 'Arn I a god if I invent a story that people believe in for long enough?'

Jason Villegas is currently living and working in Houston and has shown extensively throughout Texas. His narrative installations utilize disposable materials such as tape, felt and cardboard. In this particular exhibition he will be including video works. He describes this particular work derives from his fascination "with the melding of economic societies ergo an impoverished child in Sudan wearing a Michael Jackson tour shirt. Such imagery combined with knockoff merchandise fuels much of the iconic imagery used in my visuals. Aesthetically my work leans toward illustrative narratives that utilize cartoonish imagery to satirically reflect the social complexities of our self-defacing American society."

Jeremy Eilers is currently based in Austin, TX. In the fall, he will begin the Master's Program in the Department of Fine Arts at Columbia University, NY. Eilers works in narrative sculptures. In the past his work explored the stories caused by the friction between the functionality of an object and his rendering them un-functional. He describes this particular installation as "[it] seems to be dying. Its cities are teetering and have become unmoored islands. Its flora already extinguished; its fauna frozen in salt. But a different type of life-force is in play. Its presence is felt under the land. It is the cause of death but also of life. It will continue the Work."

Deborah Colton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.