

MEDIA RELEASE

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Use Your Illusion

Curated by Paul Horn

July 9th to August 20th, 2011

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 9th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**JOHN BRUCE BERRY SCOTT BURNS DANDEE DANA O NICKY DAVIS "DUAL"
PAUL HORN DANIEL JOHNSTON SOLOMON KANE SHARON KOPRIVA MATT MESSINGER
ANGELBERT METOYER KEVIN PETERSON KEVIN SECHELSKI TREY SPEEGLE**

Deborah Colton is pleased to announce *Use Your Illusion*, a Group Exhibition of mixed media work curated by Paul Horn at Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston.

The title of the show, *Use Your Illusion* is taken from a Guns N' Roses album from the late 1980s. These words have a broader meaning when taken out of context. A play with the concepts of reality and illusion is in the core of this project and the concept of this exhibition can be summed up with a quote from one of the artists in the show, Solomon Kane, "The art of *Use Your Illusion* will embody Abstract Symbolic Surrealism informed by psychology, religion, and philosophy -- art that stretches the mind and soul with metaphysical meaning." From the mad-frantic cartoons of Daniel Johnston to the photo-realist paintings of Kevin Peterson, *Use Your Illusion* will encompass every reality of the human experience. From the sophisticated low-brow graffiti of Nicky Davis to the shimmering pearl encrusted gates of Sharon Kopriva's latest paintings, *Use Your Illusion* will create a dialogue between dissimilar yet coinciding realities.

The Artists in *Use Your Illusion* understand the world in a subtle way, as seen through a dimly-lit mirror. It is through such distorted illusions that they are trying to make things clear.

Paul Horn is a Houston-based artist and curator. He has curated several exhibitions, including the very successful *Camp Lucky* for Deborah Colton Gallery in 2004, where over 1,200 attended the opening. Horn's work has been featured in both Art in America and Art Forum.

Daniel Johnston is an artist and musician who currently lives and works in Waller and Austin, Texas. Johnston's cartoon-inspired drawings and other work have been shown in the 2008 Liverpool Biennial and various U.S. and U.K. Galleries. Johnston's self-written and self-performed songs and art have a cult following that is especially strong in Austin. The work of Scott Burns and Dandee Danao is also influenced by cartoons, comics and illustration. Kevin Peterson is a Houston-based artist who creates photo-realist paintings that offer a contrast between innocence and corruption, frequently depicted by young figures in dilapidated, graffiti-filled settings. Kevin Sechelski, Nicky Davis, Dual, and Matt Messinger also employ graffiti elements in their work. Solomon Kane, a Houston-based artist, creates psychedelic works of art using materials that glow when shown under black lights. New York-based Trey Speegle has developed an ongoing body of work based on "paint by numbers" game reflecting on our wish to understand and construct reality.

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, performance, conceptual future media and public space installations. The Gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.