

MEDIA RELEASE

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Dystopian Landscapes

June 4th to July 2nd, 2005

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 4th, 6:30 to 9:00 PM

JOSE D'ALVIA ALEX DE LEON CHARLES LA BELLE LUZ MARIA SANCHEZ ANNE WALLACE

Deborah Cotton Gallery is pleased to present *Dystopian Landscapes*, an exhibition bringing together five artists who explore place (urban and rural, industrial and natural), property, and the role prosperity plays in the changing nature of our world. Using a variety of media—sculpture, video, sound, and photography each artist is concerned with issues that reveal how wealth, or the lack of it, impacts our world on a global level in humanistic and individual terms, along with the erosion of the natural landscape as it is rapidly being replaced by industrial pursuits.

How abundance and depletion, wealth and destitution define place and are manifest in our world are concerns reflected in the work of each selected artist. In stylistically divergent yet conceptually linked works the artists expose and question in-between spaces in our post-industrial society.

The exhibition brings together Texas, national and international artists. Jose Davila lives and works in Guadalajara, Mexico. In his large-scale photographic series, *Life without buildings*, the artist plays with preconceived notions of the landscape and by subverting political ideals he exposes the reality of many poorly erected or half-finished industrial sites. San Antonio, Texas based artist Alex de Leon explores issues regarding the homeless. With his *Welcome Home Series*, the artist groups together structures he has constructed from signage carried by the homeless. Building a non-exploitive relationship with the people he meets, de Leon purchases the signs for \$3.00 each and, ultimately, creates a village of small dwellings that poignantly considers the meaning of home. New York artist Charles La Belle combines hundreds of small images to create large-scale compound photographs. Obsessively documenting and investigating places where he has lived and traveled the artist recontextualizes place by creating a new map based on repetition, color and aesthetics. In his new formations intriguing contrasts in abundance and scarcity are revealed. Currently working in San Antonio, Texas, Mexican sound and video artist Luz Maria Sanchez filmed a homeless man and his cart of possessions over the span of one year. Capturing the repetitive and compulsive loading and unloading of his belongings along with his meticulous cleaning of his surrounding space which exists in the public arena. Sanchez depicts the dignity found in preserving order. Another San Antonio, Texas based artist, Anne Wallace critically calls into question human impact on the environment. In her sound and video piece she examines the convergence of nature with man's exploitation of it.

Deborah Cotton 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.