

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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

## Hedonistic Imperative

Curated by Graham Guerra

January 21st to March 4th, 2006

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 21st, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**JAMES ADAMS MATT BORRUSCO CARL D'ALVIA MICHAEL JOAQUIN GREY PAUL JACOBSEN  
JERRY KEANS KIM KEEVER TED MINEO NORM PARIS MICHAEL REES ROBERT YARBER SUZANNE WALTERS**

**Deborah Cotton Gallery** is pleased to present Hedonistic Imperative, a group exhibition by 12 artists who have temporarily broken with their "hedonic treadmill" and try to imagine an idyllic post-human, post-sexual, silicon enhanced future for our decedents. The show takes its title from futurist David Pearce's utopian web published manifesto. Pearce believes, "...the world's last unpleasant experience will be a precisely dateable event." In the next millennium we will rise above our Draconian existence and be bom again into a 'psychochemical nirvana'.

Guerra says, 'Hedonistic Imperative is a rebuke to the ubiquitous apocalyptic visions of the future propagated by everyone from politicians and religious leaders to science fiction authors and Hollywood disaster films. Americans have so intemalized the validity of an apocalyptic end of the earth (nuclear holocaust, polar ice caps melting, biblical fire and brimstone) that much of our lives our lived in a reactionary response to this anxiety. We spend 396 billion dollars on military and defense each year, vote for politicians who support preemptive war, stock our fall out shelters, say our prayers, and wait for the worst'

The artists in the exhibition try to inhabit the profoundly altered consciousness and bodies of our "super well' descendants. in works that range in media from painting, drawing, and sculpture to video and photography.

Artists Michael Rees, Jerry Keams, and James Adams construct romanticized mutant versions of the human form. Adams makes use of painterly virtuosity and his affinity for historic portraiture in work that combines traditional figuration with exaggerated and wholly unnatural forms. Jerry Keams' paintings and multimedia work merge citizen consumers with the objects they fetishize, creating omni potent and amoral contemporary monsters: Christ as a transformer, football player as cyborg, and fashion models as bionic war machines. Michael Rees animations and sculptures radically reconstruct the human body into arachnid-like creatures made up of human fingers and legs that look like they escaped fonn a paranoid Cronenbergian future. But as Rees' animation shows us, these automatons are up to nothing more sinister than teaming to walk.

Suzanne Walters, Cart D'Aliva, and Ted Mineo rely less on distorted human models to create their utopic visions. Walters' paintings are inhabited by malformed deer like figurines frolicking in a hazy polychrome bliss. These china cabinet runaways, like H.G. Wells' Eloi from the year 802701, live in a future where all of the natural forces have been sublimated for their pleasure. D'Aliva's highly crafted sculptures are monuments from an alternate hairy human like civilization. His enigmatic work includes fur-covered monoliths, apes, and a dog with a V8 engine for a head riffs on popular portrayals of evolution, technology, and breeding. Ted Mineo's delicately rendered drawings and paintings resemble ovenivrought sci-fi and fantasy novel dust jacket illustrations. Mineo's quixotic world is the timeless adolescent Eden of continual pining and unfulfilled desire.

Graham Day Guen'a is guest curator for Hedonistic Imperative. Guerra graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in painting in 1998 and Yale School of Art in 2003 with an MFA in painting/printmaking. Guerra has been selected to participate in many national and intemational shows since that time, including Deborah Cotton Gallery's Touch and Temperature: Art in the Age of Cybermelic Totalism exhibition which had its Houston debut in October 2004. Guerra lives and works in New York.

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 intemational artists to make positive change.