

MEDIA RELEASE

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JOE AKER
Seductive Synthesis

March 10, 2007 through April 28, 2007
Opening Reception: Saturday, March 10, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Deborah Cotton Gallery is pleased to present *Seductive Synthesis*, the newest series of photographs by Houston artist Joe Aker. The exhibition opens Saturday, March 10, 2007 with a reception for the artist from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. The exhibition continues through April 28, 2007.

Living in a world of constant chaos, our sensory responses begin to rely mainly on a dehumanized world of high tech and lurid imagery which loses all sensuality and spirituality. Leaving seemingly nothing to the imagination, we lose the ability to look at the world around us and depend entirely upon feelings thrust upon us by others. Before the advent of video games, television and mass media, people tended to look more closely at the world around them and delve deeper into the details of their environment and the journey would lead them to discover an inner, more personal vision of sensuality and spirituality. The seductiveness of this inner vision is the essence of the artistry of Joe Aker in his latest work. Whether of manmade or natural objects, Aker's photographs allow the viewer to touch upon emotions and feel the seduction and eroticism of the images.

"I like to explore" says Aker, "it is exciting for me to look for the sensuality in a subject which most people never stop to explore. The way the light, texture, form and color create spiritual and seductive works of art within the subject is truly an emotional experience for me." The famed Spanish Architect Antonio Gaudi (1852-1926) is quoted as saying that a "work of art must be seductive — in this point lies the universal as it attracts everybody, both the expert and the profane. When the quality of the seduction is lost, then it is not a work of art." Joe Aker's work is both seductive and sensual in its simplicity and emotional quality. Aker uses unconventional processes which invite the viewer to delve deeper into the image itself and create their own emotional responses. His blending of imagery of various subjects and differing qualities challenges the viewer to go beyond the context of the original subject.

Joe Aker is a nationally recognized architectural photographer based in Houston, Texas. He graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in 1975 with a degree in photography. He has worked worldwide for many national and international architectural firms and developers including Gensler, HOK, Hines, Cesar Pelli, Robert Stern, Kirksey and Ziegler Cooper. Aker's work has appeared in Rafael Moneo: Audrey Jones Beck Building (Edition Axel Menges, 2000) on the addition to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, major architectural journals and many mainstream magazines and newspapers including the New York Times, Time, Architecture, Interior Design and Lux magazine. *Seductive Synthesis* is Aker's first solo project with Deborah Colton Gallery.

Also on display through April 28: Frank Rodick - *The Longest Night*

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