

MEDIA RELEASE

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David Graeve: *Civil Disobedience to Direct Action*

July 12 – August 23, 2014

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 12th 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present, *Civil Disobedience to Direct Action*, a solo exhibition of multimedia artworks by artist David Graeve. *Civil Disobedience to Direct Action* examines and responds to the nature of the creative output and communicative expression that was the product of civil rights era activism and the influence of that relationship on the present condition of visual communication and art. This exhibition opens Saturday, July 12th with a public reception for the artist from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

Civil Disobedience to Direct Action takes its inspiration from the dissident forms of creative empowerment and expression prevalent in the protests and social movements of the civil rights era. This show will use performance, direct action site-specific presentations and extremely innovative forms of art to make commentary on the powers and social structures prevalent in controlling and influencing expression in contemporary art. Graeve's creative expression will be highlighted by the diversity of his approach and range of work presented in this exhibition. In addition to presenting a new body of paintings and unique sculptures, Graeve will showcase a one-night site-specific installation in the Gallery garden composed of large photographic and painted balloons. This exhibition will be complimented by an ambitious performance and installation art event entitled *The Big Machine*.

Innovation of materials, idea and installation is a signature of Graeve's work. He consistently creates one-of-a-kind pieces that respond to the physical and social constructs of the exhibition installation spaces in which he works and the social context of our time, with his intention rooted in expanding visual language. Graeve takes inspiration from revolutionary thinkers Rudolf Steiner and Joseph Beuys with his work consciously grounded in concepts of humanism, social philosophy with a residue of political and poetic satire.

David Graeve grew up in Minnesota and received a BFA from the University of Minnesota and a MFA from the University of Houston. He has received numerous public commissions including the Texas Sculpture Garden, Houston Museum of African American Culture, Herman Memorial and others. In addition to his extensive five year evolving sculptural installation at the Discovery Green (from Thanksgiving to MLK day 2008-13), Graeve has exhibited his photographic sculptural spheres at the entrance of the Dallas Art Fair, Art Aspen and several other prominent locations. Graeve was the US Trust sponsored artist at the Aspen Ideas Festival at the Aspen Institute where he activated the entire campus with a monumental sculptural spheres installation running through buildings and across the entire grounds. Graeve is a recipient of awards from the City of Minneapolis an Award of Merit and Q Award, Curators Award of Merit (Galveston Art Center), Davis-Ryan Award and Friends of Art Program Scholarship.

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.