

MEDIA RELEASE

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Deborah Colton Gallery ***Shawn Benton: Organized Chaos***

February 1 to March 8, 2014

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 1st, 2014, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present *Organized Chaos*, an exhibition of artworks from artist Shawn Benton. *Organized Chaos* marks Shawn Benton's exhibition debut in Houston. This exhibition opens on Saturday, February 1st with a public reception from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in conjunction with the Bert L. Long Jr. exhibition and fundraiser.

Shawn Benton is a young, though accomplished, painter living and working in Aspen, Colorado. His artwork pays acute attention to popular culture in the present age and exhibits striking, yet simplistic, commentary that engages, in particular, themes concerning American and global economics, the political arena, consumerism, and mass media. Prompted by his deeply-rooted conviction in the power of the collective unconsciousness, Benton endeavors to make artwork that is communicable to the broadest possible audience – the entire human race. Simultaneously acknowledging, through painting, both current societal epidemics and the power of altruism, Benton observes and responds directly to the environment in which he has grown up – that of an over-abundant 21st Century America.

Employing vibrant, color palettes and often incorporating text into his paintings, Benton's works in *Organized Chaos*, though addressing somewhat convoluted and suspicious aspects of today's economic, political, and social systems, are not entirely negative. Paradoxically, Benton's artwork intends to encourage the viewer toward positive shifts in perception that foreshadow an end to present global dilemmas and, ultimately, a peaceful future.

With a growing following and patrons, Shawn's artworks are now being acquired by prominent art collectors world-wide. Benton's work was featured at the 2013 Aspen Art Fair and his first solo-exhibition in the United States last summer. *Organized Chaos* marks his first solo exhibition in Texas and in Houston. His work has been exhibited in such institutions as the Aspen Art Museum and the Red Brick Council for the Arts in Aspen, Colorado.

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.