

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Vignette Exhibitions: Linda Hofheinz, Jean-Daniel Lorieux, Matthew Grabelsky and Matt Messinger**

November 12, 2011 to January 7, 2012  
Opening Reception: Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to announce four solo vignette exhibitions featuring new work by Linda Hofheinz, Jean-Daniel Lorieux, Matthew Grabelsky and Matt Messinger. These Vignette Exhibitions, in conjunction with the Gallery's main shows open Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> with a public reception with the artists from 6:30 to 9:00 pm

"I enjoy things that have meanings on several levels," says **Linda Hofheinz**. She is referring to a particular turn of a phrase in a little-known poem, but the statement also applies to her bold, imaginative paintings. Her work is dense and delicate, precise and particular, yet it opens itself up to many interpretations. Viewers and patrons have written e-mails or confided in hushed conversations that a certain detail speaks directly to them. Hofheinz is pleased that her paintings have touched those who experience them, but she does not presume to interpret the experience for others. Their relationship with a given work is their own -- she is only the doorkeeper. When viewers enter that door, there is a sense of timelessness, yet familiarity. It is as if myths or much-told tales have come to life in a transcendent universe.

Her research may include paintings of the Flemish Masters, stories of saints and sinners, myths, fashion magazines, scientific writings about animals and birds, modern and ancient poetry, calligraphy or human anatomy. She has been known to visit the zoo, design and fabricate a costume for a chosen model to wear, so that she can see how the shadows fall, or immerse herself in the music and culture of a particular period.

Linda Hofheinz has shown at the Museo de la Nacion in Lima Peru, the Wichita Falls Museum of Art, Arlington Museum of Art, The Jung Center in Houston and Shift Gallery in Seattle, Washington. In 2008, she was a finalist for The Hunting Art Prize and also a finalist for the Leipzig St. Thomaskirche Friedensfenster Competiton in Leipzig, Germany. Linda is active in the Houston art community and her work is included in many prominent private and public collections.

French artist, **Jean-Daniel Lorieux**, is one of the masters of photography of his generation. Jean-Daniel has contributed to prestigious fashion magazines such as Vogue for more than two decades. His style is reminiscent of Helmut Newton or Guy Bourdin. He has created the most beautiful and successful ad campaigns for European designers and fashion houses such as Dior, Lanvin, Paco Rabanne, Ricci, Céline, and Cardin.

His high-contrast style connects the models with fashion, with a subtle and distinguished eroticism. Glamorous photographer Jean-Daniel is sought after for his celebrity photographs and portraits ranging from former President of France Jacques Chirac, Actress Isabelle Adjani, International Models Karen Mudler and Claudia Schiffer, Prince Albert of Monaco, Fashion Designer Kenzo, and other iconic individuals. The national debut of this particular body of work that will be exhibited as a pre-promotion of FotoFest 2010 which will focus on Russia, was

inspired by the novel, *The Master and Margarita* by Russian author Mikhail Bulgakov and photographed in Moscow.

In 2011, Jean-Daniel will have exhibitions in New York, Brussels, Paris, Dubai and Cannes. He is also releasing a book of photographs, published by Michel Lafon, and a documentary movie, retracing the atypical path of the artist.

**Matt Messinger** is a Houston native who made the move from graphic design to fine art in search of a freer exploration of aesthetics. His paintings mix serious ideas and icons with lighthearted techniques and imagery, and are often collaborations with his 6-year-old son, Matthew. Messinger enjoys symbolism and can be inspired by anything from logos, advertisements and animals, something simple as a number, or as subtle as a texture. He is a true artist in the sense that he cannot exist without creating. He is ever immersed in inspiring objects, images and materials that have been abandoned in junk yards, forgotten and tucked away on shelves of second-hand shops, or simply lying along North Houston's railroad track near Winter Street Studios where he works daily.

Matt Messinger is the 2011 *The Big Show* Winner, awarded by Lawndale Art Center. He was a Hunting Art Prize finalist in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Matt recently presented material as part of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's Slide Jam program and is already in many important collections

New York and Paris based artist, **Matthew Grabelsky** graduated from Rice University in 2002 with a BA in Art and Art History and a BS in Astrophysics. Afterwards, he moved to Florence, Italy, where he spent four years studying the techniques of classical drawing and painting. About his education, Matthew states: "Science taught me how to observe the world, and art has allowed me to express my relationship to it."

Since 2006, Matthew has focused on creating paintings that combine the physical world that people see everyday with imagery from mythology and dreams. His work is not intended to be viewed as fantasy or as allegory, but rather as a blend of every-day experiences and the subconscious. His paintings are enigmatic, and they create dream-like worlds which invites viewers to form their own interpretations of the imagery presented.

Matthew paints in a highly realistic manner, derived from his studies of 19th-century French Academic painters, and he uses this visual language to craft modern narratives. He places his subjects in urban settings: trains, gritty alleyways, and cosmopolitan cityscapes; then he introduces a twist to create a mix of rational and irrational elements. His work is often humorous, and it straddles the divide between the serious and the bizarre.

**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.