

MEDIA RELEASE

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FRANK RODICK **The Longest Night**

Curated by Marcia Mercadante

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

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present *The Longest Night*, a series of photographs by artist Frank Rodick. A vibrant and sensual investigation of the experience of rapture, ecstasy, transgression and transformation, the exhibition opens Saturday, March 10, 2007 with a reception for the artist from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. An artist's talk will be held on March 10 at 2PM. The exhibition continues through April 28, 2007.

The French philosopher and literary revolutionary George Bataille once stated, "Life has always taken place in a tumult without apparent cohesion, but it only finds its grandeur and its reality in ecstasy and ecstatic love". Rodick unveils our primal urges in his courageous and profound exploration of the intimacies of Eros within the context of taboo; at once sacred and forbidden. As Rodick unravels image after image, appropriated from existing video stills and other sources, he laboriously and meticulously reworks each photograph, imbuing the work with a multiplicity of depth and lushness. Utilizing traditional and historic photographic processes; gelatin silver printing and iron and copper toning, a delicate 19th century romantic aesthetic is created; seducing the viewer into an intense and trancelike introspection of both self and other and the boundaries where they unite and divide.

As we gaze into the eyes of the many portraits, from both the *Arena* series and the new works on display for the first time. We witness a surrender to the sensation of ecstatic vision; a glimpse of the journey of the psyche as it ascends to a more exalted state of spiritual and physical oneness, realized through the absolute and sometimes violent orgasmic release of the body. The titles of the pieces become a kind of signpost and a guide; *Love, In Pain There Burns A Secret Joy, ...and on the 8th day,* laughter. Eroticism is restored to its original portrayal in antiquity, equated with cosmic force and divinity. Rodick takes us by the hand through this dense, dark labyrinth of many paradoxes; pain and joy, violence and release, laughter and tenderness, power and pleasure, masculine and feminine as we can be ultimately liberated through participation in this visceral metamorphosis.

Frank Rodick is a photographic artist working out of Toronto. He has completed three bodies of work, *Liquid City*, *Sub Rosa* and *Arena*. Rodick has participated in many solo and group exhibitions internationally. He is in numerous public and private collections including The Museum Of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, Museet for Fotokunst, Denmark, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de Buenos Aires, Musee de la Photographie 'a Charleroi, Belgium, with his most recent museum acquisition, *3 am, Engram*, by The Philadelphia Museum of Art in early 2007.

Also on display through April 28: **Joe Aker - Seductive Synthesis**

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, and conceptual and future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.