

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## New Cartoon!

January 22nd to March 6th, 2005

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 22, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

CORY ARCANGEL BILL BARMINSKI ANDY COLQUITT RACHEL HECKER PAUL HORN  
JEREMIACH KETNER AI KIJIMA PAPER RAD JASON VILLEGAS ULTRA VIOLET

### **car·toon** \kär-'tün\

n. A ridiculously oversimplified or stereotypical representation: *criticized the actor's portrayal of Jefferson as a historically inaccurate cartoon.*

**Deborah Colton Gallery** is pleased to present *New Cartoon!*, an exhibition that explores artists that utilize the language of cartoons and illustrations to reflect the social complexities of our sometimes ridiculous and self-defacing American society. Cartoons are the original satire of our society. They embrace the realm of the fantastical while still being referential and representative, allowing viewers to escape into the commentary of the absurd. They are social x-rays and help artists establish visual language to investigate their surroundings.

*New Cartoon!* also incorporates newer medias which reveals that the issue of representation does not die with new technology, but artists learn to manipulate these materials to discuss prevalent social issues. Some artists borrow iconic figures to stress a universal point. Some make their own characters and animate through narrative to become commentary. Regardless how they use the idea of illustration, human need to represent their surroundings has been and continues to be an integral part of history and contemporary art.

Artists included in the exhibition are from all over the country. Artists Ai Kijima and Jeremiah Ketner live and work in Chicago. Kijima uses discarded fabrics to create quilted landscapes of retro cartoons, iconic illustrations, and patterns. Ketner employs his own quiet style to animate a cast of self-derived characters. Bill Barminski, working in Los Angeles, is known for his vintage inspired social commentary also satirizing the discourse of contemporary art. Artist collective Paper Rad, consisting of three members, Jessica Ciocci, Jacob Ciocci, and Benjamin Jones, will be exhibiting a video work of animation and works on paper. The group truly integrates their psychedelic world view into a variety of medias that will also be on display through their web design. Cory Arcangel is a renegade proprietor of the ultimate interactive comic experience, the video game. Archangel hacks into old NES cartridges to obtain socially revealing results. Ultra Violet, known also for her collaborations with Andy Warhol and Salvador Dali, incorporates iconic figure 'Mickey Mouse' into the reinterpreted 'Michelangelo' series through digital media and drawings. Texas artists include Andy Coolquitt, Rachel Hecker, Paul Hom, and Jason Villegas, a mixture of emerging and established artists. Coolquitt, an artist/designer/architect, exaggerates our personified stereotypes of animals through plywood cutout figures in sexual encounters while playing with human associations of proper behavior. Sweetly airbrushed characters portray harsh emotional realities in Hecker's canvases. Hom, known for his popular culture references, is greatly influenced by comics and "low art" pairing them with the issues of "high art" to create deliberate tensions inside his work. Working in found materials from tape to felt, Villegas transforms them into narratives that span issues of race, religion and cultural identity.

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

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