WORD
Curated by L. Brandon Krall

September 16 through November 4, 2006
Opening Reception   Saturday, September 16, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

JOE AMRHEIN  ARAKAWA/GINS  JOHN BALDESSARI  ROBERT BARRY
MARCEL BROODTHAERS  JAMES LEE BYARS  MARTIN CREED  JONMARC EDWARDS
WAYNE GILBERT  JENNY HOLZER  DOUGLAS HUEBLER  JERRY KEARNS
JOSEPH KOSUTH  LUCY R. LIPPARD  KEN LUM  PHILIPPE MAUCOTEL  CELIA A. MUÑOZ
BRUCE NAUMAN  YOKO ONO  RAMMELLZEE  ED RUSCHA  MICKEY SMITH
WILLIAM STONE  GARY SWEENEY  THE ART GUYS  HANS-ULRICH OBRIST
BEN VAUTIER  LAWRENCE WEINER  ALLISON WIESE  CHRISTIAN XATREC

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present WORD, a survey of work that ranges from the literal to the figurative, by artists who engage language and ideas as their medium. Work will be installed in the three main gallery spaces and extend into the public domain. Both current and historical material will include a rare video on a Marcel Broodthaers performance from 1972, posters, books and catalogs by Arakawa/Gins and the billboard IMAGINE PEACE by Yoko Ono. WORD unites diverse artists from first and second generation Conceptualists, to Fluxus artists from France, with artists working in North America and Texas.

Putting art again in the service of the mind, ideas and their embodiments range from abstraction, to wordplay and verbal constructs tied to figurative objects. The use of words in art may be traced to antiquity, but here our precedents began with the 20th century artists and designers whose ideas about art language and graphic design lead to the revolutionary works that emerged from Europe, the Americas and Asia in the 60s and 70s, where our show begins from the grass roots to the ivory towers of cultural production.

The Jean-Noël Herlin Archive Project is lending posters, invitations, stickers and mail art by: Art & Language, Marcel Broodthaers, James Lee Byars, Nancy Dwyer, Gilbert & George, Guerilla Art Action Group, Guerilla Girls, Hans Haacke, Jenny Holzer, On Kawara, Louise Lawler, Brenda Miller, Yoko Ono, Adrian Piper, Christopher Wool and the Virginia Dwan Gallery. Lucy Lippard and Jerry Kearns annual Happy News Year, Village Voice pieces will be exhibited, as will an inscribed notebook by Ultra Violet. In WORD the role of social sculptor is shown in documentation of the curatorial oeuvre of curator Hans-Ulbrich Obrist, and a collection of the most important catalogs and books produces in the 60s, 70s, and recently on the phenomenon of conceptual art will be available for reference in the center gallery space.

Like a new poetry for the 21st century, art made with words with its extensions into architecture and popular media, relies for its effect on the power of language to present meaning and to evoke sensation and images. The exhibition WORD invites visitors to engage at first hand with the potent forms that work with words can take.

A panel discussion will take place at the gallery on Friday, October 20, 2006. Panelists scheduled to appear include Lucy R. Lippard, Jerry Kearns and Lawrence Weiner.

Deborah Colton Gallery is founded on being an innovation 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.