

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**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 please 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 with 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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-Ulrich 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.