

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Salli Babbitt**

***Femininity: Many Reflections***

May 5, 2007 through June 30, 2007

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 5, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Deborah Cotton Gallery is pleased to present, *Femininity: Many Reflections*, a multi-media exhibition, which investigates and examines the role and expression of the feminine in modern culture and history. The opening reception is on Saturday, May 5, 2007 with a reception for the artist from 6-9 p.m.

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato was quoted as saying, "Real strength never impairs beauty or harmony, but it often bestows it; and in everything imposingly beautiful, strength has much to do with the magic". Indeed there is visual celebration of magic, beauty and power as Salli Babbitt reveals and reflects the many archetypal faces of the feminine with great humor and tongue-in-cheek joie de vivre. Her luscious and sensuous paintings and use of found objects, high heels, lingerie, sunglasses, baubles, beads and Barbie dolls are transformed as they are gilded and jeweled in Baroque imperialism, an experiential ceremony of homage to the power and allure of feminine sexuality and seduction. Wall scones, composed of Barbies evoke "The Three Graces". "Pompeian Orgy", is a relief of entwined Barbie and Ken dolls, seductively painted to resemble oxidized bronze. Classicism as form and representation and Pop culture's idealized Venus and Mars. "Venus Rising, Rebirth" an evocative sculptural torso, covered in broken sea - green glass, rising from ceramic foam-flowers, is a beautiful, glittering reminder of the feminine as dangerous and alluring.

"Our Lady of The Feel Good Shrine", a life size figurative sculpture complete with parrot head is a complex play of metaphors. Words, and their manipulations are presented; compliments are the new benediction. "Bee Hive-Bzzzzz", the other shrine is a metaphor of climbing the ladder of virtue ultimately crowned with a beehive hair do of pearls. Our "Lady" is Marge Simpson. American icon of femininity: wife and mother. Babbitt's pairing of unexpected materials, modern and historical aesthetics, soft and brittle textures creates an atmosphere of curiosity and introspection.

Salli Babbitt is a graduate of University of St. Thomas with a BA in Studio Art. She has exhibited extensively in many Houston galleries and her works are a part of the collections of both corporate and private individuals. Babbitt has been a professor of painting for twelve years at the Art League Houston. She is also the instructor of two award winning outreach classes for adults with physical disabilities and Multiple Sclerosis.

In collaboration on selected sculptures with the Houston artist Crystal Owens, graduate of University of Missouri.

Deborah Cotton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists worldwide, 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.