

MEDIA RELEASE

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Select Works from Deborah Colton Gallery

July 14, 2018 through August 25, 2018

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

**AMITA BHATT RANIA DANIEL MARY BETH EDLESON DANIEL KAYNE
WILLIAM JOHN KENNEDY JONAS MEKAS DOROTHY HOOD PERRY HOUSE
IVAN PLUSCH FORREST PRINCE FRANK RODICK DICK WRAY**

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present our summer exhibition, *Select Works from Deborah Colton Gallery*. The exhibition opens on Saturday, July 14th and is on view through August 25th. The exhibition features recognized artists from Texas, Europe and the Americas, and includes painting, photography, mixed media and works on paper.

As a tribute to the historical "Introductions" Houston galleries always had during their "Art Houston" summer show, Deborah Colton Gallery will be introducing a young talent -- who has selected the works for this show and has created a unique group exhibition with a fresh perspective. Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to introduce our new Associate Director, Lauren Arocha, who has created this exhibition. Lauren comes from an art patron's family and grew up surrounded by exceptional contemporary art, both in her family's home and through their family's domestic and international travels. Lauren is a native Houstonian who graduated from SMU with a degree in Spanish Literature and Photography, has studied in Spain and recently had a curatorial internship at the Phoenix Art Museum. Lauren has been associated with Deborah Colton Gallery since the fall season of last year.

"Giving the next generation opportunities to learn and take leadership roles prepares us all for the future and adds an exciting, new perspective on the past and present. Lauren's enthusiasm, rich experiences and knowledge have created so much positive energy around this exhibition. The summer has proved already to be fresh and vibrant at the gallery." states Deborah Colton.

Biographies on artists selected for this exhibition are as follows:

Amita Bhatt received her BFA from the Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, India and her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, USA. From her earliest days, Bhatt explored Hindu and Buddhist Tantric philosophy to answer existential questions as she negotiated the classic themes of conflict, ideology, spirituality and transcendence.

Amita Bhatt's works have been exhibited at prestigious venues such as the Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum (USA, 2013,), Museo Pedro de Osma (Peru, 2011), The Walters Art Museum (USA, 2009), Die Monchskirche Museum (Germany, 2010), and The Station Museum of Contemporary Art (USA, 2004). She has also been the proud recipient of the several prestigious grants. Her works are included in the private collections of Marilyn Oshman, Sharon and Gus Kopriva, John and Berthe Ford, Nancy Kienholz, Geetan and Tarun Tejal, and The Ogden Museum of Southern Art among others.

Mary Beth Edelson was born in 1933 in East Chicago, Indiana and lives in Soho, New York and is recognized internationally for her break-through art works in far-ranging mediums and her contributions to the feminist revolution. She has worked in collaborative and/or political environments, participating in the early exhibitions at A.I.R. Gallery (founded in 1972), taking part in the Heresies Collective, and helping to lead the Women's Action Coalition, 1992-94. Her work has been exhibited around the world and she is represented in major collections such as MoMA and the Guggenheim Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

As one of the early Texas abstract artists, and one of the few female artists working in large scale throughout the decades, **Dorothy Hood** led an adventurous life. Born in Bryan, Texas in 1918 and raised in Houston, she won a scholarship to the Rhode Island School of Design and went on to study at the Art Students League in New York. Hood was front and center in the cultural,

political, and social activity of Mexico and Latin America during a period of intense creative ferment. She developed close friendships with all the European exiles, Latin American surrealists, and Mexican social realists of the time -- artists, composers, poets, playwrights, and revolutionary writers which influenced her art. Upon returning to Houston in 1961, Hood began to produce the epic and deeply emotive paintings that evoked the limitless skies and psychic voids of space. This prolific body of work would be the material with which she would be recognized for her outstanding contribution to the visual arts, not only in Houston, but all throughout Texas too—earning her the title of Texas Artist of the Year in 1984. Over the next four decades, she became a renowned and highly collected Texas painter whose works have been acquired by art institutions and major collectors across the United States.

Perry House was born in Orange, Texas. He pursued art as a vocation at the California College of Arts and Crafts where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts. Upon his return to Texas, House settled in Houston and began his lifelong career as an artist and a teacher of artists. His work often strips away decoration, narrative, sex, politics, and traditional perspective, while at the same time evoking the passage of time, weight, depth, and our mortal coil. As Houston's art scene was coming of age, House was one of the early pioneers of abstraction, showing with some of the most historically notable galleries in Houston. In the collection of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the artist received an NEA fellowship award in 1990 and mounted solo efforts at *Diverse Works* in 2000, curated by Susie Kalil, and 2004 at the Galveston Arts Center curated by Clint Willour. On his work House comments "My art has always been about some particular opposites; elegance and violence, humor and horror, the sacred and the profane. Things are sectioned, distorted and exploded." Perry House has since retired from Houston Community College, Central after 30 years of teaching and is now painting full-time.

William John Kennedy was born in 1930 in Glen Cove, New York and studied at Syracuse University, the School of Visual Arts and Pratt Institute. In the 1950's, he worked as an assistant and studio manager for American fashion photographer, Clifford Coffin, a contemporary with Penn and Avedon and arguably the greatest of Vogue's "lost" fashion photographers. A top freelance editorial photographer in New York City, Kennedy's work appeared in world-renowned publications including LIFE Magazine and Sports Illustrated. In the commercial arena he created national and international campaigns for corporate clients including Avon, GE, IBM, RJR Nabisco, American Express and Xerox. Kennedy has continued his passion for fine art photography throughout the years developing a full body of work in the art form. Kennedy's exhibition of rare and historic images of Andy Warhol and Robert Indiana debuted during Art Basel Miami Beach 2010 and since then has continued to receive excellent reviews.

Jonas Mekas is the Founder of Anthology Films in New York, a filmmaker, poet, writer, and artist. Jonas Mekas captured moments that we all cherish in art history, in American history, in life... from filmmakers, Salvador Dali, Kennedy's, Warhol, Yoko Ono and John Lennon, Elvis Presley, the World Trade Center... to the more personal special moments of nature, his family, being human and celebrating life, cherishing each experience to the fullest. Jonas Mekas was born in 1922 in Semeniskiai, Lithuania. In 1949 he emigrated to the U.S. together with his brother, settling in New York. He has been one of the leading figures of American avant-garde filmmaking playing various roles: His films have been screened extensively at festivals and museums around the world. In 2005 he represented Lithuania at the Venice Biennale, the exhibition was noted with Special Mention price for extraordinary presentation of contemporary classic art. Jonas Mekas has received awards from New York State Council on the Arts, Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Golden Medal from Philadelphia College of Art, Guggenheim Fellowship in 1966, Creative Arts Award in 1977, Brandeis University in 1989; Mel Novikoff Award at San Francisco Film Festival, 1992; Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from Ministry of Culture, France in 1992 and 2000; Lithuanian National Award, 1995; Doctor of Fine Arts, Honoris Causa from Kansas City Art Institute in 1996; Special Tribute, New York Film Critics Circle Awards in 1996; Pier Paolo Pasolini Award, Paris in 1997; International Documentary Film Association Award, Los Angeles, 1997; Governors Award, Skohegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 1997; Artium Doctoris Honoris Causa, Universitatis Vytauti Magni, Lithuania in 1997. More recently, Jonas Mekas was honored at the Los Angeles Film Critics Association's award ceremony for his significant contribution to American film culture and had a solo exhibition at Ludwig Museum in Cologne, Germany. Mekas participated in an extensive presentation at Serpentine Gallery, London and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, at the Cinémathèque Royale and the Bozar Center for Fine Arts, both in Brussels, Belgium. Jonas continues to involve himself in creative projects and exhibitions, which include showings at the Centre Pompidou, the Cesis Art Festival in Latvia, and at the Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, Germany, and the Venice Biennale in 2015.

Ivan Plusch, born in 1981, is a young Russian artist on the rise and part of the Nepokorionnye Group. He is based in St. Petersburg and has studied in various art schools including the State Academy of Art and Design, the Roerich Art School and the PRO ARTE Institute. Plusch is among a generation of artists who were still children at the time of the fall of the USSR and was influenced by the consequent sudden sociological and economic changes in his country in the early 90s. His work is heavily influenced by the effects from these changes: from the freedom of speech, hard fought and regained with difficulties by the people and by their collective relationship with society. Whether influenced by the effects of alienation or of liberation, the work of Plusch is more sophisticated and evolved than simply representing his sociological observations. Ivan Plusch's work has been exhibited throughout Russia and worldwide including in France, the Netherlands, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the Balkans. Most

recently his work has been included the Venice Biennale at Glasstress Gotika which was a collaboration between the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and Venice's Berengo Studio. His work is in prestigious private and public collections world-wide.

Forrest Prince was born in Houston, Texas in 1935. With no formal art education, he began making art in 1969, and in 1976 was given his first solo exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston. In 1983 Prince founded the Praise God Foundation. His body of work is unusual in its freedom from the machinations and impurities of the art world and represents man's higher spiritual aspirations. In addition to his Christian religious work, Prince's artwork is also concerned with political and social issues. Some of his artworks involve the artist's investigations into food consumption other works severely question the satanic practices of the US Government. He has participated in many group exhibitions in museums and galleries including: Diverse Works, Hooks-Epstein Gallery, San Antonio Museum of Fine Arts, Lawndale Art Center, Art Car Museum, Station Museum, and The Menil Collection.

Frank Rodick was born in Montreal and lives in Toronto. For more than twenty years, Rodick's work has been shown internationally across four continents in over 80 exhibitions, including 35 solo shows, and reviewed in numerous publications. Provoking and complex, Rodick's work weaves the intricacies of emotion: pleasure and pain, joy and sorrow, memory and death. Integrating traditional photography, digital imaging, video, and alternative photographic processes, critics describe his artwork as strikingly unique among his contemporaries. Rodick is the recipient of numerous awards and commissions, and his photographs are featured in private and public collections including: the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University; Brooklyn Museum; Fort Wayne Museum of Art; Franklin Rawson Provincial Museum of Fine Arts, San Juan (Argentina); Fundación Luz Astral, Buenos Aires; The Kinsey Institute Collection; Lehigh University Art Galleries; The Library Project, Dublin (Ireland); Musée de la Photographie à Charleroi (Belgium); Museet for Fotokunst (Denmark); Museo Nacional de Bella Artes de Buenos Aires; Museum of Contemporary Art Salta (Argentina); Museum of Fine Arts Houston; National Gallery of Canada; New Mexico Museum of Art; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Alfred Stieglitz Centre. Deborah Colton Gallery has been representing Frank Rodick since 2007 and has helped organize several exhibitions for his work nationally and internationally, including the outstanding survey exhibition, curated by Kate Ware, Labyrinth of Desire at Deborah Colton Gallery with accompanying catalogue in conjunction with FotoFest.

A native Houstonian born in 1933, **Dick Wray**, was an artist of incomparable talent and personality who played a critical role in the development of Houston's contemporary art scene since the 1950s. Often categorized as an Abstract Expressionist, Wray is best known for his explosive and dynamic abstractions that received numerous accolades from Houston's critical community as well as notable arts figures across the United States throughout his career. Wray attended the University of Houston's School of Architecture followed by the Kunstakademie, Dusseldorf, Germany. Returning to Houston in 1959, he began seriously working as an artist. Over the next fifty years, he participated in a large number of important exhibitions nationally, landing his first solo exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston in 1975. Wray was an instructor at the Glassell School of Art from 1968 until 1982. Wray was awarded the Ford Foundation purchase prize in 1962, a prestigious Artist's Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1978 and named Texas Artist of the Year by the Art League of Houston in 2000. His work is in major collections, including the Albright Knox Museum, Buffalo, National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum of Houston and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

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