

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mary Ann Strandell
Between Plane and Perception

January 24, 2009 through February 28, 2009
Opening Reception: Saturday, January 24, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to announce *Between Plane and Perception*, its first solo exhibition of paintings and lenticular prints by Mary Ann Strandell. The artist's work was first seen at the Deborah Colton Gallery in the 2004 exhibition *Touch and Temperature: Art in the Age of Cybernetic Totalism*, curated by Michael Rees. *Between Plane and Perception* opens Saturday, January 24, 2009 with a reception for the artist 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

In the exhibition *Between Plane and Perception* Mary Ann Strandell intersects various forces of imagery and media with the confluences of Eastern and Western sources. These sources range from Orientalism to Chinoiserie to Modernist Architecture to a revivification of nature. Mary Ann is interested in the multiplicity of these aesthetic languages peaked at a moment in time when world economies have turned on axis. We ride a tsunami of change and flux.

The velocity in this new work has a different pace between the oils paintings and the lenticular prints. While the oils embrace the concepts of beauty and precision from the Renaissance, the lenticular prints are an amalgamation of hyper-space. The prints combine repetitive marks with linear forms to converge into volume and vector. Rudolf Arnheim writes that volume leaves an impression on us by their being, and vectors do so by their acting; thus animating the pictorial space. In balancing architecture (structure and vector) against nature (form and volume) Strandell utilizes these systemic strategies. She weaves them together with sumi ink drawings and photo vignettes. They are a parallax world revealed through a lens; thus, the viewer is in a constant state of looking and activating the image.

Mary Ann Strandell has exhibited her work in national and international venues. In 2008 Strandell's *The Floating Bridge* exhibition of prints and installation was curated by William Ganis at Wells College String Room Gallery, NY. Her 2006 solo NY exhibition, *Moveable Terrain* at Michael Steinberg Fine Art was reviewed in *The New Yorker* and *The Village Voice*. The Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis, included Strandell in *Master Works; St. Louis Collects*, curated by Paul Ha and Shannon Fitzgerald. In 2008 Strandell was awarded a residency at Art Omi International, and a Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Fellowship Award. She is also the recipient of Arts Midwest National Endowment for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowship Award for Painting.

She is collected by the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS, Time Equities, NY, NY, The Amity Art Foundation, Woodbridge, CT, the De Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA, The Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, KS, The Hallmark Print Collection, Kansas City MO, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Chicago, IL, US Sprint-Nextel Collections, Kansas City, MO, Brandes Investments, Del Mar, CA, and many others.

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