

MEDIA RELEASE

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Teresa O'Connor
A Ghost Story, Part 1

July 8 through August 31, 2006
Opening Reception: Saturday, July 8, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present the new exhibition: *A Ghost Story, Part 1* by Teresa O'Connor. The exhibition opens Saturday, July 8, 2006, with a reception for the artists from 6-9 p.m. The exhibition is held in conjunction with ArtHouston 2006, the annual citywide celebration of visual art.

It is incredibly appropriate that Teresa O'Connor would consider her latest work "a cinematic gesture to capture a suspended moment." With *A Ghost Story, Part 1* she has created a *mise-en-scene*; a French term originating in the theater, but it has a more sweeping definition when applied to film that refers to everything that goes into the composition of a shot including the characters and general visual environment, even sound as it helps in the overall composition. In *A Ghost Story* two characters dominate the action: The Forty Something Male Singer and a woman known as The Lounge Act. Utilizing video, photography, and objects, O'Connor (re-)creates a non-linear re-telling of moments from other peoples lives. The characters, however, are amalgamations of persons and moments; they are 'types' - an essence of a potential individual - that have taken on an identity that fulfills their given roles, but it is the viewer that makes the final determination. With only scant, circumstantial evidence, the characters present a semi-physical embodiment wherein the viewer, through sight and sound, must fill in the blanks of identity including physical and psychological characteristics.

O'Connor constructs these characters - these conglomerations - in terms of British visual culturalist Simon Schama's theory on landscape: "Landscapes are culture before they are nature; constructs of the imagination projected onto wood and water and rock." O'Connor finds the same theory applies to individuals, that they are "defined" by their landscape: the way they appear, the clothes they wear, the places they congregate, and that often the idea of who someone is considered more important than whom someone is. The inhabitants of O'Connor's *mise-en-scene* are given the attribute of being singers as part of their character and, as a beginning to understanding them as much as any person can, a way to look toward their similarity. Without a definitive existence, though, the depicted individuals appear as ghosts...apparitions of another self, whether or not they actually ever exist.

O'Connor has been exhibiting since 2000 including such important exhibitions as Lawndale's *The Big Show* (2000, 2002); the 2004 Houston Area Exhibition curated by Bill Aming (curator at MIT Visual Arts) at Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston; *TWANG: Contemporary Sculpture in Texas*, organized and traveled by the Museum of Southeast Texas in Beaumont; and, *Camp Lucky* at Deborah Colton Gallery in 2004. She has also exhibited in the Netherlands, Canada, Chicago, New York, Dallas, and San Antonio. In 2003 O'Connor received an Individual Artist Grant from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston Harris County. Her work has been written about in over two dozen regional and national periodicals. O'Connor lives and works in Houston.

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