

MEDIA RELEASE

For more information contact:
Deborah M. Colton 713.869.5151
info@deborahcoltongallery.com

Stephen Torton
Painting, Sculpture and Tricher Collé

Curated by Marcia Mercadante

January 09, 2009 through January 20, 2009
Private Reception: Friday, January 09, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Public Reception: Saturday, January 10, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present, *Painting, Sculpture and Tricher Collé* by interdisciplinary artist Stephen Torton; an evocative exploration of the personal journey which addresses notions of history, the search for place and the role of creation and its relationship to the collective.

Using classical and time-honored techniques of incrustation; a style of classical Roman mural decoration which employs layers of pigments with deliberately placed textural elements and Florentine stucco, Torton integrates "tricher collé" the "trick that sticks". This is a phrase created by the artist to describe his use of decomposed and metamorphosed photographic "skins" as a visceral and historical recording of experience. Much of Torton's work was born in a casual, playful atmosphere of experimentation while working on mural commissions. In the tradition of Albers, Torton's paintings are frequently developed upon a foundation of the chromatic interactions of color studies often using broken mosaic fragments of his own work. The result is subtle, introspective, mysterious and evocative of ancient symbolism, hieroglyphs and abstract, fetishistic representations of myth and deity. For Torton the intersection of life and art are integral. His approach to both is prolific and fervent.

Stephen Torton is an interdisciplinary artist and master artisan. He was born in 1957 in Brooklyn and currently works in Paris, New York and Brazil. International exhibitions include Paris Photo, Galerie du Jour Agnes b., Centro de Arte Contemporaneo Wilfredo Lam at the 7th Bienal de la Habana (Cuba), the Fondation Dina Vierny-Musee Maillol, (Paris), Galerie Mitterand (Geneva) and Galerie Enrico Navarra (Paris). He is in many public and private collections including Enrico Navarra, Agnes b., Musee Maillol, Leo Malca, Johnny Depp, Fanny Ardant, J.G. and Edward Mitterand, David Broillet and Bernardo Paz at Inhotim Centro de Art, Brazil.

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.