

MEDIA RELEASE

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A TIME FOR CHANGE Curated by Catherine D. Anspion

September 20 to November 4, 2008

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 20, 2008, 6:00 to 9:00 pm; fashion show and spoken word performance at 7:30 pm.

Joanne Brigham Sandi Seltzer Bryant Felipe Contreras
Alejandro Diaz Nathaniel Donnett Leslie Field
Wayne Gilbert Luis Arsenio Gonzalez Patricia Hernandez
Tracy Hicks Zoe Jackson-Jarra Selven O'Keef Jarmon
daniel-kayne Kelly Klaasmeyer Ken Mazzu Franco Mondini-Ruiz
McKay Otto John Todd Partridge Dune-Michell Patten Susan Plum
Jonathan Rosenstein Anthony Thompson Shumate
Michael K. Taylor Christy Karl McWhorter

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present this constructive forum representing all views through these talented and collectible artists, titled *A Time for Change*. The exhibition is curated by Catherine D. Anspion, with an opening reception on Saturday, September 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and a closing reception on Election Night, Tuesday, November 4, 2008 from 7:00 pm until the new American President is declared; performance by Joanne Brigham at 8:00 pm. The exhibition marks the debut of Deborah Colton Gallery's new space at 2445 North Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77098 and inaugurates the gallery's fall season. A voter registration drive will be conducted throughout the opening.

A Time for Change was initially conceived as a politically-themed exhibition, specifically addressing issues surrounding the American Presidential election and the changing of guard that will be decided upon November 4, 2008. The show was conceived 18 months ago before the historic nature of this election and its candidates had fully coalesced.

Gradually the exhibition expanded to include a looser and more organic interpretation of this moment, this time capsule — 2008. Ideally, the exhibition is more than a strictly orchestrated view, but addresses a time where America and the world moved from one paradigm to another, when barriers dissolve, issues are raised (from racial and gender equality to environmental concerns, the ever elusive concept of peace, America's role in the global economy) and answers — and consciousness — offered. In the same way that 1968 marked a period of upheaval and transformation, so does this year, which exists as a pivotal planetary epoch. And as *A Time for Change* will make apparent, artists are the prognosticators and provocateurs of our progress.

A Time for Change brings together 24 contemporary Texas talents ranging from mid-career internationally recognized artists like Whitney Biennial exhibited-Prix de Rome recipient Franco Mondini-Ruiz and now New York-based former Artpace resident Alejandro Diaz (known for his installations for New York's Public Art Fund) to emerging voices like Dune Micheli-Patten (a current Amnesty International artist). Michael K. Taylor (concurrently on view at the Museum of Fine Arts. Houston in -Houston Collects"), Project Row House-exhibited Nathaniel Donnett and Lawndale 2008 Big Show First Place winner daniel-kayne. Other visualists include Art Car Museum-shown Jonathan Rosenstein (represented by a suite of assemblage wall sculptures that employ found objects including vintage political buttons, whose lineage include ties to The Menil Collection via his parents, founding scholars of the museum) and Station Museum of Contemporary Art-exhibited. recently Mexico-based Susan Plum, whose alchemical installation features a gargantuan knot that resembles angel wings.

Styles range from the neo-expressionism of Luis Arsenio Gonzalez' Statue of Liberty and American flag paintings to the simplified, stoic and controversial ash canvases by Wayne Gilbert, which contain actual human remains, and contain potent imagery referencing 9/11. daniel-kayne presents a metaphoric installation utilizing tools that imply skyscrapers to contrast America and China. while Franco Mondini-Ruiz's suite of acrylic canvases probe cultural stereotypes and border politics. Ken Mazzu contributes post-apocalyptic canvases that portray a crumbling industrial landscape. and New York-based, former Texan Alejandro Diaz presents his neon text sculptures, which pronounce "Make Tacos. Not War."

Dallas artist Tracy Hicks (concurrently on view at the Galveston Arts Center) emits a strong statement about nature with his jars filled with plastic casts from endangered species that evoke the eerie sensibility of a laboratory after hours. Preserving and recreating an outsider art and garden environment made by a homeless Houston man named Dennis, Michael K. Taylor reprises his recent installation at Project Row Houses.

Global activist, artist and fashion designer Selven O'Keef Jarmon returns from South Africa to unveil a series of miniature houses that pay homage to the concept of community. Zoe Jackson-Jarra creates a fashion presentation including vintage. recycled and repurposed clothes, set to spoken word. politically-conscious poetry, while Michael K. Taylor and his poetry students also present a spoken word reading. Performance artist Joanne Brigham creates a closing night piece that tunes in to the tremendous anticipation of Election Night 2008.

A recent Marine who served in Iraq, painter Felipe Contreras comments on the experience with a quartet of canvases that confront change and the concept of patriotism. Kelly Klaasmeyer continues to offer an ironic, yet hopeful, take on the political process. Anthony Thompson Shumate creates a new animation based upon the candidacy of Barack Obama. Nathaniel Donnett continues his literacy project begun at Project Row House, enjoining exhibition goers to bring a meaningful volume to donate to a young reader, while Dune-Micheli Patten's work includes bottles that conjure ghostly presences. Patricia Hernandez and John Todd Partridge also contribute, respectively, new canvases and sculpture that signify personal and political change.

The exhibition concludes with four artists who seek the universal and spiritual: Sandi Seltzer Bryant. Leslie Field, McKay Otto, and Christy Karl McWhorter. Bryant presents her ongoing series of abstractions that vibrate with vivid hues, while Otto's trans-dimensional canvases beckon the viewer towards mysterious portals. Field's photographic abstractions, presented in a grid pattern, suggest mandalas, while McWhorter's bells, created for a 2007 ceremony honoring Jane Goodall at the Rothko Chapel, dialogue with her delicate, exquisitely cast bronze tree branches.

Catherine D. Ansporn reports on the Texas art scene as a cultural commentator and Fine Arts Editor for PaperCity magazine. penning a monthly column, Art Notes, which details exhibitions. news and arts-related topics for Houston and Dallas audiences. AnSpon also contributes and has served as the Houston correspondent for ARTnews. writes features for Art & Antiques, and has contributed to Allies, Art + Auction, Art in America, and the website Glasstire. She is currently writing a book on contemporary Texas art. to be published by the University of Texas Press, fall 2010.

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.