

MEDIA RELEASE

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MARIPOL

Maripolarama: *Perverse City*

April 26th through July 4th, 2008

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 26th. 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present **Maripolarama: *Perverse City***, featuring a collection of monographic Polaroid works by renowned Polaroid artist and fashion-icon, Maripol. The exhibition features a new body of work and the artists trademark color Polaroid portraits with new techniques, documenting the subversive social scene of artists, celebrities, and scenesters of early 1980's New York. The gallery is pleased to celebrate this original photographic work with a reception for the artist Saturday, April 26th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

Deborah Colton Gallery has shared a long and successful relationship with Maripol. The gallery's inaugural show, *Reviving Downtown: My Address Book*, was a solo exhibition of Maripol's large format black and white Polaroid portraits, exhibited during FotoFest of 2004. Maripol's work as an art director, designer, and film producer has influenced popular movements in music, fashion, and art since the early 1980s. Maripol never went out without her Polaroid SX 70' camera. She was the founder of Maripolitan Popular Objects Ltd., a fashion accessories company, which also designed merchandising for Madonna's "Like a Virgin" tour, following the success of her styling for the cover of Madonna's album of the same name, shot by Steven Meisel. She directed the documentary "Crack is Wad(on Keith Haring for French TV as well as other shorts and has art directed films by Marcus Nispel, and Abel Ferrara, and music videos for Cher, D'Angelo, Elton John, Luther Vandross and others. She has produced films including "Downtown 81", directed by Edo Bertoglio and written by Glenn O'Brien which she also art directed, "Just an American Boy" by Amos Poe. and "Face Addicts" by Edo Bertoglio.

Maripol's work has been exhibited at P.5.1 Contemporary Art Center, Deitch Projects, Robert Miller Gallery, New York, Musee Maillol, Paris, TriennaleMuseum, Milan and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She has been published in The New York Times Magazine, WWD, Time Out New York, ELLE, i-D, Numero Japan, and Rolling Stone Italy. Maripol's books include *Maripolarama* (powerHouse Books, 2005), *New York Beat: The Making of Downtown 81* (Petit Grand, 2001) and *Mes Polas: 1977— 90s* (Art Random, 1990). She was just featured in Nuke magazine with a cover of Madonna celebrating the singer's 25 year career. Maripol's work is currently in traveling exhibitions around the world in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Milan, Berlin, Paris and London.

"The invention of the Polaroid camera is at the heart of the history of photography The focal point. The bridge. The transition from film to digital technology. The seamless instant image. Everything immediately. Modernity makes instant images essential Maripol's work plunges into the city, picking out inhabitants though the lens of an SX-0' a strange unfolding device. Edwin H. Land's invention created a new complicity between the photographer and his/her subject. They look at the result together. React. Start over again. Polaroid photos are live art, collective works. New tribes arrived mixing genres, situations, attitudes, art, style, despair and the joy of being alive. They needed a friendly recorder to aim a flash at their poses. They found it in Maripol. Each and every one of her Polaroid pictures represents a story. But, behind the theatrical aspects, Maripol's photos bear witness to an era and to its heritage. Then, there is the shadow of a mentor flitting across all these works, the guru. the Master of setting things up, Andy Warhol. We all know the saying: 'Everyone will be famous for 15 minutes'. But this moment must not disappear; it must be captured for posterity. And that is the essence of Maripol's work. The archaeology of fleeting moments. "Tous ces moments, perdus dans l'enchantement, qui ne reviendront jamais- sang Bryan Ferry. These images were made possible by the emotional closeness of the photographer with her subjects but also because of their own familiarity with the Polaroid process. A playful object which encouraged them to move, to give themselves to the camera lightheartedly. This is shown dearly in the difference between their reactions when the same subjects are when shot by the larger Polaroid machine and so they rest immobile, in black and white. Two different but complementary ways to see and record the life of a generation which emerged from the limbo of the Underground to become a worldwide spectacle. Baudelaire invented urban poetry. It was at a time when words were of prime importance, when Nadar immortalized his contemporaries with his photographic portraits. Maripol's work is the alchemist's view of those lost times which will be sanctified by the passing of time. A gallery of "Flowers of Evil" of a past moment which today's aesthetics still build on. A book of poems to the century of the image. Passers by who will never disappear. Our past." - Jean-Yves Pilet

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.