

**Press Release**

**TO SCHEDULE AN ARTIST INTERVIEW OR TO REQUEST VISUAL MATERIALS, CONTACT:**

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**DEBORAH OROPALLO**

***KINK***

March 9 – April 21, 2007

Opening Reception: Friday, March 9 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**San Diego, California - For Immediate Release**

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**EVENT SUMMARY:**

Scott White Contemporary Art is proud to present the forthcoming exhibition entitled “KINK”, featuring photo-based paintings by Deborah Oropallo. The exhibition will be available for viewing from Friday, March 9 through Saturday, April 21, 2007. The opening reception will take place on Friday, March 9 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The artist will attend the reception. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

This is the premier exhibition featuring work from her latest *Pinup* series. The unveiling of this new series at Scott White Contemporary Art will be followed with an exhibition at the De Young Museum of Art in San Francisco, entitled “GUISE” on March 17, 2007.

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**EXHIBITION DETAILS:**

Deborah Oropallo has pushed aesthetic and conceptual boundaries for the past two decades. Based in Berkeley, California, Oropallo uses digital photography as a basis for her paintings, which explore the polarity between the real and abstract, the photograph and the paint. The forthcoming exhibition entitled KINK will feature the most recent work from the Pinup series.

The source of the Pinup series originates from the internet, where Oropallo borrowed images of underwear model advertisements for sexy costumes. In the original photograph, these women dressed in provocative costumes pose in a suggestive yet coy manner - as Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, a police officer, or a nurse. Oropallo then digitally manipulates the image, reducing the figures to faceless lines and color that capture the stance, attitude, and pose.

These portraits study the link between fetishism and fashion, and their respective roles of sexuality, fantasy, fairytale and seduction within the context of contemporary culture. Oropallo states: "I am interested in exploring fashion, past and present, within the history and context of portraiture. To use the example of clothing as a symbolic system or metaphor linked to the expression of nobility, sex and power. I find the comparison and combination of the garb of 19<sup>th</sup> century kings and colonels with the lingerie catwalk model of today an interesting territory to consider."

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## **ARTIST INFORMATION:**

*"A mastery of the tools at hand, whether paintbrush, camera, or computer, combined with artistic vision and talent, is a formula for innovation."*

– Sandy Harthorn, Curator of Art, Boise Museum of Art.

The progression of art has always faced the development of technology with sense of wonder and curiosity, mixed with some backlash. With the invention of the camera in the mid 1800's, artists whose historic roles were often to record and portray the world as the eye saw it now had another eye to capture a moment's image that lasted longer. From this leap in technological development the modern art era was spawned, influencing the development of Impressionism and beyond. Photography has remained an integral part of art history, weighing heavily into the development of subsequent movements such as Pop Art, exemplified by Andy Warhol's appropriations of commercial imagery.

With the recent developments in digital photography and computer painting software, artists faced the challenge of utilizing, manipulating, and incorporating the possibilities with existing media forms. Consequently, this has also provoked debate on the legitimacy of artistic integrity. Deborah Oropallo took this challenge, embraced all of its possibilities, and translated the opportunity into several distinguished bodies of work. Her 2006 exhibition *Twice Removed* at the Boise Art Museum highlighted three series executed between 2003-2006 : *Replica* (2003), *Pitfall* (2004), and *Stretch* (2005). Christopher Schnoor of the *Boise Weekly* hailed Oropallo's work as "refreshingly original art, instilled with intelligence, humor and the sensibility of an experienced painter, a good antidote for any lingering art prejudices."

Deborah Oropallo grew up in Hackensack, New Jersey, which exposed her to the New York art scene of the 1960's. At a young age, she was inspired by Pop Art by the likes of Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, and Robert Rauschenberg. Looking at the work of these pioneers, she fast became aware of the significant influence that photography had on contemporary art. She attended Alfred University in New York for her bachelor's degree, and went on to pursue her graduate studies at Berkeley, where she studied under the venerated painter Elmer Bischoff. Since receiving her M.F.A in 1983, she has won numerous prestigious awards as the National Endowment for the Arts (1991), the Modern Masters Award (1998), and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award (2005).

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