

Press Release

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Scott White Contemporary Art presents

Deborah Oropallo
Wild Wild West Show

January 8 - March 6, 2010
Opening Reception: Friday, January 8, 2010, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

San Diego, CA - For Immediate Release

Event Summary:

Scott White Contemporary Art is pleased to present Deborah Oropallo's *Wild Wild West Show*, an exhibition of new digitally constructed, provocative paintings by the Bay Area based artist. The exhibition will be on view starting Friday, January 8, through Saturday, March 6, 2010. An artist reception will take place in the gallery on Friday, January 8 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The artist will attend the reception, and light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

Exhibition Details:

Deborah Oropallo's new series entitled *Wild Wild West Show*, takes inspiration from the spectacle of rodeo cowgirls, exuding an intoxicating blend of feminine power and strength, adorned with glitz and flair. The source images of Oropallo's heroines are borrowed from costume ads on the internet, which are digitally manipulated and layered against various western-inspired backgrounds that include rodeo rings and western American landscapes. The result yields striking, yet haunting images of faceless cowgirls who strut and gesture powerfully and suggestively, evoking nostalgia of an iconic era of the American western frontier, yet viscerally charged with saturated pixels of color that command the reality of our digital age.

Oropallo's body of work negotiates the balance of feminine sexuality expressed through the anonymity afforded by the fantasy of theatrical fashion. While the girls of the *Wild Wild West Show* evoke a heightened sense of sexual prowess, their poses are often coy and kitten-like, creating a dichotomy of seemingly opposing messages - submissive poses used to convey the power of feminine sexuality, decorated under a regalia of tassels, sparkles and lassos.

The aluminum mounted work scales up to almost seven feet tall, confronting viewers with a presence that is larger than life in both size and vibrancy. The strength of presence in these works testifies to Oropallo's talent as a showman and artist, leaving viewers with an unforgettable image of sensational spectacle.

The clever wordplay of the title furthers Oropallo's unique sense of tongue-in-cheek irony, playing up the notion of the infinite source of imagery that the Internet provides as a new frontier to explore and exploit.

Artist Information:

Born and raised in Hackensack, Deborah Oropallo was exposed 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.A. and M.F.A in 1983, she has won numerous prestigious awards such as the National Endowment for the Arts (1991), the Modern Masters Award (1998), and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award (2005).

Oropallo's works are included in numerous museum collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. A solo exhibition of her *Guise* series was mounted at the deYoung Museum in 2008.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST VISUAL MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT KATHLEEN CRAIN AT 619-501-5689, or email kathleen@scottwhiteart.com

GALLERY INFORMATION:

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Hours:
Mon – Fri, 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sat, 11:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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