



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swarm Gallery is pleased to announce

### **SOMEWHERE IN SPACE**

Installations and paintings by MAYUMI HAMANAKA and ERIC LARSON

June 24 – July 23, 2006

Reception for the Artists, Thursday, June 29, 6-9PM

OAKLAND, Calif. – May 27, 2006 – Alumna of the California College of Arts in San Francisco, Mayumi Hamanaka and Eric Larson have come together for their first joint exhibition. Japan-born Hamanaka is a photographer and installation artist who explores individual identity within mass culture. For this exhibit, she has reconstructed historical portrait images from World War I and II by outlining bodies, cutting out shapes and layering them. By de-contextualizing the images and their chronological order, Hamanaka encourages the viewer to assess their own meaning. Hamanaka will also show mounted photographs conceptually related to her installation. Larson's large-scale works on paper are notably executed, one outlined dot at a time. Taking print images and blowing them up to an almost abstract size, Larson then traces the dots and fills them in with a combination of black paint, glue and glitter. The sly use of craft creates a remarkable effect. Standing close, the paintings are a chaotic cluster of spots; from afar, a cohesive image.

In the PROJECT SPACE: "Between Two Worlds" by Eric Larson  
Pitch black and illuminated, this piece creates an interstellar optical illusion.

*Mayumi Hamanaka is the recipient of the artist residency program award from the Taipei Artist Village in Taiwan and Murphy Fellowship Award. Her work has been shown at the San Francisco Art Commission Gallery and the Asian American Art Centre in New York. Eric Larson has shown at Southern Exposure and the Lisa Dent Gallery, San Francisco.*

### FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

**WHAT:** Somewhere in Space, installation and paintings by Mayumi Hamanaka and Eric Larson

**WHEN:** June 24 – July 23, 2006  
Swarm Gallery is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday, 11 – 5PM and by appointment.

**RECEPTION:** Thursday, June 29, 6 – 8PM

**WHERE:** Swarm Gallery, 560 Second Street, Oakland CA 94607 [www.swarmstudios.net](http://www.swarmstudios.net)

**ABOUT SWARM:** Swarm is a contemporary art space made up of a gallery and 11 artist studios. Swarm Gallery exhibits a broad range of art by local and international artists in monthly rotating exhibitions and includes a Project Space which features installations, video and conceptual works. The studios and gallery collaborate to host an On-Site Artist Program, as well as multidisciplinary events. Strategically located in the commercial district of Jack London Square, directly next door to Pro Arts and around the corner from Yoshi's, Swarm is both site and catalyst of creativity, production, inspiration and opportunity for working artists, art enthusiasts and collectors. Detailed information can be found at [www.swarmstudios.net](http://www.swarmstudios.net).

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