

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Swarm Gallery is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition

**MY CALIFORNIA**

February 17 – March 17, 2007

New Works by  
Michael McDermott

OAKLAND, Calif. – 11 January 2007 – Swarm Gallery is pleased to present Michael McDermott's first solo exhibition, "My California," presenting a new body of work comprised of oil paintings and mixed media sculpture. Here the artist's interests lie in his fantasies of California, culling from many sources: winemaking, helicopters, the outdoors, the state's grizzly bear, love, insults, and the big blue sky.

Landscapes play a dominant role in McDermott's paintings. Both surreal and super-real, they are infused with the complexity of the artist's imagination and the orienting power of California's terrain. Evoking traditional painting styles, the core of McDermott's work lies in his great sense of observation and keen awareness of his surroundings.

In all of McDermott's works are a collision of colors, icons and statements that reveal extant beauty in the everyday. His objects, which range in material from tinted urethane to bronze and copper, are neither rational, nor completely abstract. The artist manifests his ideas by delving into the themes of place and perspective, reinterpreting his sense of home.

Michael McDermott was born in 1975 in Dekalb, Illinois and has been working as an artist in California since 1999.

**PROJECT SPACE**

February 17 – March 25, 2007

"Bild" by Jared Lindsay Clark

Jared creates what he calls "Bilder", 3D collections of found objects. The term claims both the German word meaning "picture" and the English word "build." Jared will install in the Project Space using styrofoam, soap, and found objects from Oakland. Jared is an MFA candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. His creative experiments have been featured in the Deitch Projects *Art Parade* (2006), New York City, NY and *Scope London* (2006) with ADA Gallery. He also received a VMFA Fellowship from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation (2006).

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

EXHIBITION: MY CALIFORNIA: New Works by Michael McDermott  
Project Space | Jared Lindsay Clark (through March 25)

DATES: February 17 – March 17, 2007  
Swarm Gallery is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday 12 – 6PM and by appointment

RECEPTION: First Friday, March 2, 2007 6-9PM

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

**PRESS CONTACT AND IMAGES**

"My California" will be on view at Swarm Gallery, Oakland February 17 – March 17, 2007. Jared Lindsay Clark's Project Space installation will be on view through March 25. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Sunday, from 12 – 6PM. For further information please contact Svea Lin Vezzone at tel +1 510 472 7930 [svea@swarmstudios.net](mailto:svea@swarmstudios.net) or Susan Chen at [susan@swarmstudios.net](mailto:susan@swarmstudios.net).