

*Inauguration de la galerie avec*  
**DANIEL ROTHBART**

**"Méditation/Médiation"**

**photos, vidéo, installation**

***Vernissage le jeudi 8 juillet à partir de 18h, en présence de l'artiste***

**Exposition du 9 au 31 juillet, puis du 1er au 25 septembre 2004  
Ouvert du lundi au vendredi de 14h à 19h et sur rendez-vous**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE :**

The Galerie Depardieu will open on July 8, 2004, at **64 Boulevard Risso, Nice, France**, on the first floor, facing the Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain.

For twenty years, proprietor Christian Depardieu has worked in the international art world with a focus on contemporary art. Powerful forces in the world today render cultures more homogeneous while artists seek to cultivate and affirm their differences. At the same time, artistic communities remain aloof from one another due to poor communication. The gallery project facilitates international artistic encounters in Nice, a cosmopolitan city, in which history, geography, and culture have been a fertile soil for art, from modern masters of the 20th century to the most contemporary vanguard.

The gallery will present five or six exhibitions each year with an eclectic choice of artists working in diverse media, including but not limited to painting, sculpture, photography, video, and installation work.

The first exhibition is dedicated to the work of New York artist **Daniel Rothbart**:

"Meditation/Mediation: Photographs, Video, Installation"

From July 8-31 and September 1-25, 2004

**Opening Reception Thursday July 8 at 6:00 P.M. Performance at 8:00 P.M.**

Curated by **Hélène Jourdan-Gassin and Enrico Pedrini**

Daniel Rothbart is an American artist of the younger generation whose interests are not limited to a formal investigation of the language of art, but extend to new fields of endeavor. He is an acute observer of cultural systems and environments that interact with contemporary art. Through his studio work and the written word, Rothbart has helped to shape a new direction for American art that remains distinct from European issues and concerns. In a refreshingly new way, he affirms the need to explore religious, social-historical, and cultural values in a multi-ethnic, highly specialized society.

Jewish mysticism influenced the development of post-war American art, and in Rothbart's work cabbalistic symbolism is transformed into the basis of a personal mythology. Rothbart's work creates a new paradigm, in which conceptual art ceases to be self-referential art for art and rather becomes a cultural drive that allows new potential and meaning to emerge. Myth becomes a dynamic collective memory that allows new attitudes toward creative discourse to emerge, and at the same time focuses renewed attention on the need of humanity to affirm its presence and identity.

Rothbart's sculpture embodies a surreal poetic drawn from the realm of myth, and his imagery develops out of the historical sedimentation of life experience and scholarship. His fantastic world of myth prompts one to reconsider the sacred as a point of interaction where icons and symbols converge and undergo changes of meaning. Rothbart's work opposes currents in contemporary art bound to irreversibility in science (genetics and cloning) and information technologies, but is decidedly timely.

Semiotic Street Situations, a term invented by Rothbart, becomes the stage where symbolic, social, and cultural exchanges occur. Rothbart always develops relationships between individuals and between people and objects. In his recent collaborative performance work, participants animate his theater of life and culture through interaction with vessels. In the popular imagination his vessels become ever-changing signifiers that shape cultural identities and embody spiritual aspirations and emotional longings.

In the performance called "Meditation/Mediation," which will take place on the roof of the gallery, two concepts are juxtaposed. Meditation seems the opposite of mediation. The goal of meditation, however, could be characterized as attaining a state of inner peace. In "Meditation/Mediation," this is obtained through a process of mediation between the body and the spirit.

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