

For Immediate Release
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WENDY WAGNER

DARKE | gallery transforms into ‘Wendy’s World’ for Wagner’s solo exhibition opening May 13

(dateline – Houston, April 2011; source: Juice Consulting LLC) – Wendy Wagner will present some of her most recent works in a solo exhibition at **DARKE | gallery** entitled “**Once Upon a Time in the Land of O-Poppida...**” Both floors of the gallery will transform into “Wendy’s World” with paintings, prints, ceramics, installation art and animation displayed. Works from her recent show in Tokyo will be included. The exhibition opens with an **artist reception** on **Friday, May 13** from **5:30 - 9 p.m.** where valet parking and refreshments will be offered. It will remain on view through June 10 with installation and artworks continuing in the upstairs gallery through July 9.

Wagner offers insight behind the inspiration for her new works: “This work shows the emergence of a bubble shape frame, like a ‘pow’ in a cartoon panel. This shape represents a portal or vignette for portraits, other dimensions, or childhood memories. Referenced within these bubbles are endearing and funny moments from family photographs. These works are about exploring our individual personalities.”

With a crisp, decorative edge, they bring homage to her graphic design background and interest in children’s cartoons. Wagner portrays themes inspired by her childhood, pets, family and fantasy and transforms them into an intimate and surreal vocabulary infused with personal nostalgia and dreaminess.

Commenting on the rare opportunity to utilize the full gallery space, she states, “I am particularly excited about this show, as it encompasses the variety of mediums that I work with. Having the full gallery space to show case this will be a wonderful opportunity for my artworks to exist cohesively as ‘Wendy’s World!’”

Wagner was the recipient of the \$50,000 Hunting Art Prize in 2008, and her recent solo exhibitions include G-Trinity Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; Bosque Gallery at the Lone Star College; the Art Institute of Houston and the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. To learn more about the artist, visit www.wendywagner.com.

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About DARKE | gallery:

Now in its fourth year, the newly enlarged DARKE | gallery exhibits contemporary art of the finest quality, with a focus on emerging and established artists with Texas ties. Located at 320 B Detering @ Feagan, the gallery is open noon to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Friday and Saturday noon to 3:00, and by appointment. For more information call 713-542-3802 or visit www.darkegallery.com.

For interview requests or media inquiries about the exhibition, please contact **Heather Wagner Reed** at heather@juiceconsulting.com / 713 208 3891.