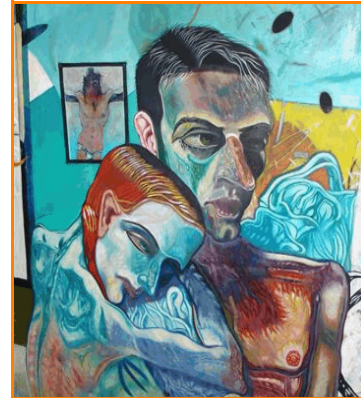


## GRACE LANE GALLERY

April 2, 2007

PRESS RELEASE  
GRACE LANE GALLERY  
2930 GRACE LANE, SUITE F  
COSTA MESA, CA 92626  
T. 714-545-1773  
F. 714-545-1712

Gallery Hours: Tues. - Sat., 11am-5pm  
& by Appointment [Contact: Fred Page, Director]



### **WARREN HEARD**

Saturday April 28-Saturday June 16, 2007

Opening Reception for the Artist: Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 5-9pm

“Whenever I paint, the images flow over one another, like water flowing and overlapping. Somehow it is the figure that always holds this fluid world together.”

“I love color and form. These are my real narratives. I peel them away and lay them on and try to build around my figures their world as I see it. I want people to see anew how the sacred and the profane co-exist.”

-----Warren Heard

Grace Lane Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings and works on paper by Warren Heard.

Applying a mixed technique, Heard uses oils, pastels, and Pentel markers to precisely render anatomical features, while exploding the traditional picture plane with cubist-inspired breaks of time and color. There is a sculptural quality to his forms that allows the viewer to see the layers of his imagery from all sides. Graphics, comics, and graffiti-inspired drawing give added punch and edginess to his style.

Heard is unique in American art. His visceral imagery is developed slowly, and often months or years are taken to perfect his figurative expressions. This well-honed craft is a filter for the Expressionist qualities of his figures, who are often presented in Biblical settings. Heard's vision gives us a new interpretation of such classical themes as *The Fall of Man* and the *Crucifixion of Christ*. Newer, more urban myths are also taken on, as in the panel painting, *Lost In OC*, where the sprawl of Orange County suburbia and its packaged theme park entertainments clash with surfing and food cultures. An accomplished chef, Heard uses food imagery in a number of works in the show.

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[coming soon...WWW.GRACELANEGALLERY.COM]

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In *Twenty Minute Turnaround*, Heard lays hold of a modernist fable, that of the perfectability of the body. Here he portrays the saga of a young woman's struggle with bulimia, showing us her dramatic transformation into an angelic creature with feathery flesh. In several works, notably *Modern Lovers*, Heard's figures present great psychological depth as they embrace each other with passion and tenderness, seeking relief from the competing symbols and histories of their respective pasts.

This unique and powerful vision of the individual is accented by a series of pastel drawings of heads and skulls, inspired by the mortality-minded *Vanitas* paintings of later Renaissance and Baroque art.

The remarkable power and grace of Heard's work, and the intensity of his style, celebrate our human condition, our loves and travails, and reconnect us with the central myths and truths of our culture.

Warren Heard was born in Los Angeles in 1949. Raised in Venice, Heard attended the Kansas City Art Institute and Art Center in Pasadena. He has had several exhibitions, the most recent in Santa Ana in 2003. Heard lives and works in Long Beach.

For further information please contact the gallery.