

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rebecca Campbell: Crush

September 9 – October 8, 2005
 Opening reception for the artist:
 Friday, September 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Wall Flower, 2005, oil on canvas, 96 x 60 in. [243.6 x 152.4 cm]

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to present new paintings by Los Angeles-based artist Rebecca Campbell.

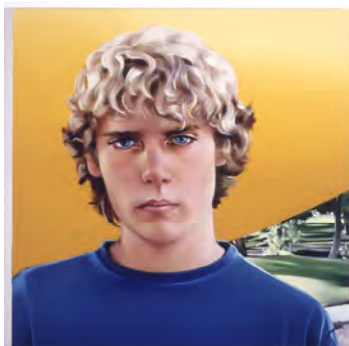
Mystery and drama lie at the heart of Campbell's paintings. These are haunting works that fuse representation with abstraction, and narrative with the nostalgic sublime.

Campbell draws inspiration from her life experiences, and specifically, memories of her childhood and adolescence growing up in Salt Lake City, Utah. Campbell develops her ideas by taking photographs of staged subjects, which she then proceeds to render as drawings or small oil studies before addressing larger canvases.

Each of Campbell's paintings is grounded in a single vibrant color, such as cadmium red, acid green, violet, and manganese blue, which lights the painting from beneath. Upon this ground Campbell juxtaposes layers of thin washes in translucent colors, with thick impasto and sweeping brushstrokes, to build her composition.

Campbell calls upon the languages of painting, photography, and film. An understanding and love of painting, both its past and present, lie at the root of Campbell's painting -- she cites Rembrandt, El Greco and Sargent as major influences, and also refers to the work of Cornell, Hockney, and Viola. Her work is photographic in the sense that the paintings frame isolated moments and flatten space. However, like an expert cinematographer, Campbell filters color, distorts perspective and places a distinctive lens over the world she portrays.

The paintings that comprise the exhibition vary in their subject, but are linked by the dominance of a single protagonist who exists in solitary engagement with his or her surrounding. The piece, *Wallflower*, 2005, portrays a beautiful young woman lying in a bathtub, water glistening against her skin. Viewed from above, we are unable to see the subject's face. As with many of Campbell's works, we are placed in the position of voyeur, and left to imagine the subject's internal life.



Left: Unwritten: Hadley, 2004, oil on canvas, 48 x 48 in. [121.9 x 121.9 cm]
 Right: Unwritten: CJ, 2004, oil on canvas, 48 x 48 in. [121.9 x 121.9 cm]

The paintings that make up the *Unwritten* series present five adolescent boys who engage us in direct confrontation. Each boy possesses a distinctive personality, with a facial expression that is transitory and haunting. The largest painting in the exhibition, *American Fork*, 2005, portrays a young girl seated foreground in the broad

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expanse of a field. The landscape is pockmarked in the far distance by factory buildings that are dwarfed by a sweeping, turbulent sky.

In *Did You Happen To See The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*, 2005, a woman sits on a child's play chair, looking down at an empty table and surrounded by toys in the cramped confines of a small below-stairs playroom. There is a palpable sense of loss, but the narrative in this, as in all of Campbell's paintings, is open-ended and subject to the viewer's interpretation.

The Artist

Rebecca Campbell (b. 1970) was born and raised in Salt Lake City, the youngest of seven children in a strict Mormon family. While her father, a prominent church official, espoused commitment to the doctrine of the Mormon church, Campbell's mother allowed her youngest daughter certain freedoms that enabled her to pursue a variety of cultural pursuits, including theatre, dance and painting. By age twelve Campbell had begun to develop a critical eye, questioning the parameters of the church and the role it ascribed to her gender. This led to her departure from the church, which caused a great deal of friction within her family as well as with the local community. Campbell did not bow to familial pressure to conform to the societal norms, but instead spent her teenage years developing her passion to make her art, which included sculpture and installation, as well as painting and drawing.

Campbell left Utah to study at Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, Oregon, receiving her B.F.A. in 1994. While continuing to make art, she worked as an independent exhibition curator in Salt Lake City 1994 through 1998. In 1998 Campbell received a residency at the Vermont Studio Center, and in 1999 moved to Los Angeles where she earned her M.F.A. from UCLA in 2001.

This is Campbell's second solo exhibition at L.A. Louver. In addition to Los Angeles, Campbell's paintings have been exhibited in New York, Columbus, Ohio, and Basel, Switzerland. Salt Lake City Art Center will host a traveling solo exhibition of the artist's work in 2006.

L.A. Louver is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and by appointment. Validated parking is available.



For further information and visuals, please contact:
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