

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



TO FRIEND AND FOE

A PAINTING INSTALLATION BY

MARGARET KILGALLEN

SEPTEMBER 9 – OCTOBER 9 1999

OPENING RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 9, 6:00PM TO 8:00PM

To Friend and Foe, an exuberant painting installation by Margaret Kilgallen, opens Thursday, September 9th at Deitch Projects. Kilgallen will paint the entire gallery from floor to ceiling with an assemblage of signs and iconic images. Kilgallen has a poet's approach to painting, collaging words and images into a rhythmic visual narrative. Her work has a very contemporary spirit but also has a nostalgic quality, evoking an America where things are experienced directly instead of being filtered through the electronic media.

Kilgallen is part of an increasingly influential group of painters from San Francisco who have been developing a fresh approach to the medium. The work has its roots in mural painting, street graffiti, tramp art, underground comics and beat poetry. Kilgallen often works outdoors and is part of the community of graffiti writers, skateboarders and surfers who have created a unique San Francisco visual culture.

Kilgallen surfs nearly everyday when the waves are good and her painting reflects her immersion in the natural world. Her work is replete with images of trees and resplendent with natural colors. Kilgallen's painting also reflects her love of typography and old shop signs. She has a background in letterpress printing and for the past eight

years worked as a book conservator in the San Francisco Public Library where she was able to absorb hundreds of type fonts and other images that enter into her work.

Kilgallen's painting installation does not correspond to a preconceived plan but instead emerges out of a poetic process in a visual stream of consciousness. Her rhythmic approach to painting also reflects her immersion in "old time" music. The images are built up in layers like the parts of a song. Her painting installations are accumulations of images and experiences. There are no preparatory sketches and no "handles" such as masking tape and projections. Everything is rendered by hand and the artist wants the work to show a personal, hand-made quality. Kilgallen gets her paint for free from a recycling center where surplus paint is mixed together to make unusual colors. It is consistent with her approach to use found paint that someone else already started with.

Kilgallen had a solo exhibition in the Drawing Center's Drawing Room in the fall of 1997. Earlier this year she participated in *Frieze*, an exhibition of wall painting at the ICA, Boston. This is her first solo exhibition in a New York commercial gallery.

Kilgallen was born in Washington, D.C. in 1967 and grew up in Maryland. She studied letterpress printing at Colorado College and moved to San Francisco in 1989 where she now resides.

**For more information, contact Liz Alderman at Deitch
Projects
TEL (212) 343 7300 FAX (212) 343 2954
DEITCH PROJECTS Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 12 - 6**