

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



***MICHELLE LOPEZ***  
***Adventures in the Skin Trade***  
**September 22 - October 27, 2001**

Deitch Projects is pleased to present *Adventures in the Skin Trade*, an exhibition of leather sculpture by Michelle Lopez. The work has been produced in collaboration with The Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, using leather and fur from Trussardi's workshops. The exhibition had its initial showing at the Fondazione Trussardi in Milan this summer.

Lopez works with leather as a surrogate for human skin. Her new sculptures are fleshy "creatures" of familiar yet curious shape. They imply embryonic and other human-like forms, reminiscent of strange children's cartoons. The leather skin is a metaphor for simultaneous protection and exposure. It is both sensuous and tough.

The title of the exhibition comes from Dylan Thomas's picaresque novel, which implies mischief, mystery, and the illicit. The poet's intention for his only novel was to create a character who would not only experience all types of absurd "skins" but shed them as well, metaphorically, until the end, he would find himself naked.

Like the novel, all of the work is mysterious, unfolding its peculiar narrative. The exhibition evokes adventure by being playful, strange and inviting to the touch, exploiting leather's sensuality.

**CONTINUED ON REVERSE**

Also in the exhibition is a Public Art Fund commission, *Woodsonner*, a "found automotive chassis [turned] into a sensual sci-fi cruiser."<sup>1</sup> The piece becomes a part of the plot as the transport or nest of all of these creatures.

AZORES (djs perry & smith) are specifically designing a soundscape track to complete the environment for "Adventures of the Skin Trade."

Michelle Lopez lives and works in New York where she is on the art faculty of Columbia and New York Universities. Her leather wrapped car was featured in the Greater New York exhibition organized by PS1 and the Museum of Modern Art last year. She has worked as a part of the fashion collective, ORFI and is designing Michelle Lopez leather accessories with Trussardi.

**GALLERY HOURS 12 – 6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY  
OFFICE HOURS 10 – 6, MONDAY - SATURDAY  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT  
ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ AT 343-7300**

