

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



**MICHAEL BEVILACQUA
SURFACE TO AIR
APRIL 5 – APRIL 30, 2005
76 GRAND STREET**

Surface to Air, an exhibition of new paintings, collages and drawings by Michael Bevilacqua, opens on April 5th at Deitch Projects.

The exhibition features two of the artist's most ambitious works, *Surface to Air* and *Drawing Under the Influence; Geek USA*. *Surface to Air* is a twenty-four foot painting that summarizes the artist's past themes and leads him into a new more painterly direction. *Drawing Under the Influence; Geek USA* is the final section of a fifty-three foot long painting that renders the artist's personal history and artistic development into a vast artificial landscape.

During the past two years, Bevilacqua has opened up his paintings, no longer emphasizing flatness and graphic logo-like images. His compositions are more fluid, combining a graphic precision with a more gestural approach. He has become interested in the debris of the artist's studio; the floor strewn with discarded tape and tissue paper and the photocopies that he uses in his drawings. His paintings are increasingly about the process of making a painting. The studio detritus becomes an element in the composition.

In *Surface to Air*, the artist appears as a somnambulist character on the right, looking into his

painting and observing how it is made. There is the illusion of seeing objects floating through clouds and papers falling through the painting. Bevilacqua learned to paint as a young artist by painting bottles and the starting point of the painting is a still life of bottles, reminiscent of his first works. His paintings represent the structure of contemporary memory, a floating field of iconic images.

Drawing Under the Influence; Geek USA is an exploration of the way the artist uses drawing to structure his paintings. For Bevilacqua, drawing involves photocopies and tissue drawings, with a layering of images. The work is a culmination of the artist's fusion of art historical references with pop culture, a world where Morandi exists on an equal plane with The Smashing Pumpkins.

The exhibition *Surface to Air* is a prelude to the retrospective exhibition of Michael Bevilacqua's work that will take place at the Louisiana Museum in Denmark from June 18 – September 18, 2005. The Louisiana Museum exhibition will feature the complete fifty-three foot painting that culminates with *Drawing Under the Influence; Geek USA*.

This is Bevilacqua's second solo exhibition at Deitch Projects.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT JASMINE LEVETT AT
212 343 7300 WWW.DEITCH.COM**