

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



MICHAEL BEVILACQUA BEYOND AND BACK MARCH 6 – APRIL 17, 2004

Deitch Projects is pleased to present *Beyond and Back*, the next chapter in Michael Bevilacqua's exploration of popular culture through painting. The axis of this exhibition is a custom designed race car, around which revolves four large-scale paintings and a suite of works on paper. The car's painted and collaged surface reprises greatest hits from Bevilacqua's past seven years. Bevilacqua has spent the last few years exhibiting in Tokyo, Copenhagen and Paris. *Beyond and Back* marks his return to New York.

Bevilacqua combines an enthusiasm for pop culture with a sophisticated study of modern painting. His work is a lexicon of contemporary icons and logos, embracing among other things, music, fashion, and art. The paintings are a visual diary of his artistic influences, recording such things as rock album covers, fashion house logos, children's cartoon characters and images from celebrated contemporary paintings. There is no separation between high and low culture. The works are like time capsules funneled through the sensibility of someone who grew up in Northern California during the 70's and 80's. Bevilacqua is a painter as social sculptor.

Bevilacqua is also an extraordinarily skillful and subtle painter, a master of color and line. His virtuosity is overshadowed at first by the exuberance of his pop subject matter. But like a pointillist painting, there is painstaking detail and technique behind the overall image. His compositions have the visual layering of an overloaded computer screen, but there's a harmony that exists between the various clashing planes. The lines are taught and crisp and the palette is provocative. But every image fits into the overall context. The paintings represent the structure of a very contemporary memory, built on layers of icons.

Summarizing his approach to painting, Bevilacqua has said that, "I am constantly swimming in a sea of signs and the canvas is my opportunity, like a writer, to tell my story in paint. Making paintings out of all this stuff allows me to document who I am, where I'm going, and affords me a little daydreaming as well."

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

This is Michael Bevilacqua's first solo exhibition at Deitch Projects. He has previously exhibited at Fredericks Freiser Gallery, New York, 1999 and 2001, Tomio Koyama, Tokyo in 2002 and Galleri Faurshou, Copenhagen in 2003. Bevilacqua's work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark, Dallas Museum of Art and Orange County Museum of Art. His work is also in the collections of Neuberger Berman, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLC, Vicki and Kent Logan and the Dakis Joannou Foundation.

A book on Michael Bevilacqua's work, co-published by colette in Paris and Deitch Projects will be available during the exhibition.

**GALLERY HOURS 12-6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT JASMINE LEVETT AT 212-343-7300**