

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



***SU-EN WONG***

***Good Girls***

**March 1 - March 30, 2002**

Deitch Projects is pleased to present *Good Girls*, an exuberant exhibition of large-scale figurative paintings by Su-en Wong. The new work encircles the idea of performance. It explores the need and desire to perform and the fantasies that lie therein, as well as the pressure of performing and the anxiety that comes with it. The artist is the performer in her own paintings, playing a variety of roles that depict the precarious and ambiguous nature of the transition between childhood and adulthood. Among many guises, she appears as a troupe of Girl Scouts, as a group of shy schoolgirls in uniform, and as a spectacular array of nude exotic dancers.

Wong's paintings explore the complex and mysterious psychological layering one forms as a child and retains throughout adulthood. The artist states, "Much of my childhood, I functioned in a system of homogenization, my experiences blurred and obscured. The paintings recall these powerful and sometimes bitter memories of breaking away from obscurity."

The paintings bask in the frivolity of adolescence, and the adult longing for the life of simple pleasures one can now only fantasize about. In much of the work, the artist partakes of the male gaze, and addresses its inherent conflict. She imbues the work with social and sexual stereotypes, as well as self-

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deprecating humor, and defines the conflicting context of power and vulnerability within her life as a young Asian woman. Wong's paintings are her means of resolving conflict between fantasy and reality, good girls and bad ones, fitting in and standing out, power and subservience, Eastern values and Western culture.

The exuberance and humor of the work are further reflected in the titles of the paintings, which are deliberately taken from paint swatch names: Perky Peach, Lime Sorbet, Tulsa Twilight, Bunny Nose Pink, Baby Chick, Mellow Yellow/American Cheese, Icy Moon Drops. The show will feature paintings made with colored pencil on huge pieces of painted paper, as well as smaller more intimate pieces.

Su-en Wong was born in Singapore in 1973. She received her M.F.A. in 1997 at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has had solo exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2000), Stefan Stux Gallery, New York (1999), Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago (2000), Savage Gallery, Portland, OR (2001), and was included in the 2000 Kwangju International Biennale. Wong is the recipient of Artist Grants from The Joan Mitchell Foundation (2000), New York Foundation for the Arts (2000), The Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation (1998), and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (1997). She lives and works in New York.

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