

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



## SWOON

**July 7 – August 13, 2005**  
**76 GRAND STREET**

We are very pleased to announce the first New York solo exhibition by SWOON. Turning the 76 Grand Street gallery into a ramshackle labyrinthine city of paper and paint, SWOON will be producing her most ambitious installation to date.

For this exhibition, SWOON will be transforming both the façade and the interior of the gallery into a handmade cityscape full of hidden corners to discover. Taking Kawloon Walled City as a creative point of departure, she hopes to evoke the spontaneous, unregulated, and often dangerous development that took place in the autonomous Hong Kong slum before it was bulldozed in 1993. Reproducing rooms upon rooms, illegal balconies, and unregulated creativity will fill this exhibition, as will dramatic cutouts of scaffolding, power lines, elevated trains, and all the imposing infrastructure of the city.

SWOON's worlds are often populated by realistically rendered- and evocatively cut-out- street people, often her friends and family. Riding bikes, talking on a stoop, going grocery shopping- these people traverse a cityscape of her own unique invention. Bridges, fire escapes, water towers and street signs create crisscrossing shadows and spaces through which her figures move. Inspired by both art historical and folk sources, ranging from German Expressionist wood

block prints to Indonesian shadow puppets, SWOON is a master of using cut paper to play with positive and negative space in a conceptually driven exploration of the experience of the streets.

You've probably encountered SWOON's work before: she has been covering the streets of New York with her signature cutouts for over five years. Often found in beautiful states of decay, her wheat-pasted cut outs "collaborate" with the street to create a time-based public artwork. In conjunction with her collective TOYSHOP, she has executed projects ranging from billboard alterations and poster campaigns, to street parties and sculptural installations. Her recent work has focused on creating peepholes throughout the city in subtle places where, once discovered, the viewer can glimpse a hidden dream world through the unassuming aperture. Find them! They're out there.

She has been traveling for the past year and a half creating exhibitions and workshops in the United States and Europe. Other collaborators include Brooklyn based art collectives, Glowlab, Black Label, Change Agent, the Madagascar Institute and the Barnstormers. Her work is included in *Greater New York*, currently on view at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT JASMINE LEVETT AT  
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