

MERRY KARNOWSKY GALLERY

For Immediate Release

SANTIAGO RUBINO: EVERY GOOD GIRL DOES FINE & SANDRA BERMUDEZ: HEAVYWEIGHT

May 26 – June 16, 2007

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 26, 8-11pm



Merry Karnowsky Gallery is proud to present two solo exhibitions, "Every Good Girl Does Fine" by Santiago Rubino and "Heavyweight" by Sandra Bermudez.

Up-and-coming Miami artist Santiago Rubino moved to the U.S. from Argentina when he was ten years old. In high school, he began painting graffiti murals of dark haired women with haunting eyes on the streets of Miami. With the success of his first solo exhibition and a showing at The Armory Show in New York, Rubino, now 27 years old, has parlayed his street cred into the respect of fine art collectors.

His pencil drawings for "Every Good Girl Does Fine" combine images of the past and future fused into a dream world inhabited by variations of the same woman – a sexy, mysterious heroine with sharp geometric hairstyles. People who know Rubino say this woman resembles his ex-girlfriend, but he says he has never met a woman with the unique haircut he likes to draw. Rubino's fondness for Victorian-era antiques is on display in a series of portraits encased in small

wooden clocks, which is fitting for an artist who describes his style as "Nature vs Technology."

Columbian artist Sandra Bermudez lives and works between New York and Miami. She is a proud feminist whose multi-media work tackles gender identity, sexuality and the portrayal of women in media from a female perspective.

Bermudez's sculptures for "Heavyweight" examine her feelings about the institution of marriage and its place in society. She cleverly creates brass knuckles by fusing together engagement rings she bought at pawnshops, turning discarded symbols of commitment into deadly weapons. She also creates beautiful freestanding sculptures out of pawned wedding bands, leaving the viewer to ponder the number of ill-fated marriages it took to create each piece. Bermudez's brass and aluminum sculptures depict words such as "Daddy's Little Girl" that are typically adorned around the necks of women expressing ownership.

Bermudez studied fashion design in Milan, and holds masters degrees from both Columbia University and New York University. She has been selected for residencies at Chateau La Napoule Art Foundation, Cannes; Vermont Studio Center; Artists in Marketplace, Bronx Museum of the Arts; and Skopelos Art Foundation, Greece. Successful solo and group exhibitions in Chicago, Miami, New York, Los Angeles, France, China, Japan, Spain, Uruguay, Argentina and her native Columbia, have cemented her place among the top contemporary female artists worldwide.

For More Information, please contact Merry Karnowsky at mkgallery@att.net.

Merry Karnowsky Gallery

170 S. La Brea Avenue (in the Art 170 Building) • Los Angeles, CA 90036 • (323) 933-4408

www.mkgallery.com