

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Santa Fe, N.M., May 5, 2009** – The Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe, is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by area artists John Fincher, Kellogg Johnson, and Carol Mothner. The exhibition of monotypes, paintings, and ceramic/ bronze sculptures, *Fincher, Johnson, Mothner*, opens for viewing on June 5th, followed by a free, public, gallery reception on Friday, June 12 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, which the artists will attend. The exhibition runs through July 25, 2009. (This opening coincides with solo exhibitions, also opening at the gallery on Friday evening, for New Mexico’s quintessential contemporary landscape painter Woody Gwyn and English botanical illustrator, Julia Loken.)

JOHN FINCHER, a painter and exceptional draftsman, presents 8 new oil-on-panel landscapes, in a departure from his well known and more recent “twig motif” works. Yet each of these new landscapes and several of his views of trees and branches reflect a continuing focus on the calligraphic lines he finds in nature.



Fincher says, “[For this exhibition] I’ve produced some pieces featuring pine tree branches close-up. These works have a quasi-Asian look and they have given me an opportunity to exploit the use of line, my favorite tool of artistic expression.”

Fincher’s works are held in public and private collections across the United States, including the Albuquerque Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian Institution.

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KELLOGG JOHNSON’S long-time interest in sculpture led him to work with both ceramics and bronze casting, media that share a reliance on modeling and the application of heat and fire. Johnson’s new sculptures and vessels, as the artist terms them, are astonishing works in ceramic and bronze, related to his well-known “archaeological” containers, yet also expressive of technology and the non-natural world.

In his *Interlocking Amphora, 2008* (13x7x5”) Johnson literally splits a vessel-shaped ceramic sculpture vertically, while holding it together with an ingenious interlocking bronze mechanism.

When asked about these new works, Johnson said: “Fire, water, air, earth, steel, and bronze are the materials I use. The process of understanding the technology, designing and building the connecting bronze mechanisms, while creating sensuous curves and voluptuous forms from clay is what I find beautiful.”

A photo-documentation of Johnson’s firing process can be found on the artist’s website ([www.kelloggjohnson.com](http://www.kelloggjohnson.com)).



Kellogg Johnson's sought-after sculptures are in public collections from the Southwest to the Far East, including the Tucson Museum of Art and the Kumamoto Museum in Japan.

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CAROL MOTHNER'S new monotypes of chain mail are fleetingly poetic works each expressive of the artist's continuing investigation of women's lives and the twin themes of freedom and renewal. In these monotypes, Mothner has created ink impressions from metal materials that she wove into coats of armor. The symbolism of a woman's heart protected in battle is both contemporary commentary and feminist history. Mothner's previous work with dolls in *Theatre of Dolls* (1993) as well as her *Lives of a Saint* exhibition (2001), both at Gerald Peters Gallery, where she has shown since 1986, is preparation for ruminations on a modern day Joan of Arc.



Says Mothner, "When Hillary Clinton was a candidate for the presidency and was so brutally abused by the media; I learned how to make chain mail. It wasn't until then that I felt a specific need for armor just for being a woman. I used actual pieces of chain mail to craft these monotypes."

Curator John W. Streetman has called Mothner an artist at the zenith of her powers, working with astonishing technical prowess. "But she is much more than a virtuoso technician. In her work there is a restlessness, a search for truth so inherent, that we are all the better for having joined her — if even for a little while — in her quest."

Upon first seeing the new monotypes, Ruth Daly, curator of this exhibition, wrote:

The chain mail that once protected the heart, the lungs, the soul of the woman warrior, is now discarded, laid aside and pressed into paper, like the petals of a preserved flower, long forgotten. They leave behind a shadow, a ghost, the whisper of an impression, a memory of the strength of a woman, yet a breath of air, and the remembered musty scent of perfume.

Mothner's work has been shown throughout the United States and is represented in numerous museum collections, as well as prominent corporate and private collections.

*Fincher, Johnson, Mothner* coincides with the first annual SOFA WEST fair (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art), to be held in the new Santa Fe Convention Center from June 11-14.

For further information on the artists, or to schedule an interview with John Fincher, Kellogg Johnson, and/or Carol Mothner, contact:

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