



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2006

EXHIBITION: ALUMNI ERIK GESCHKE AND BRYAN SMITH

March 2-24, 2006

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 2, 5 pm

Erik Geschke's Artist Talk: Friday, March 3, noon

Bryan Smith's Artist Talk: Tuesday, March 21, noon

Cornish Main Gallery, First Floor, 1000 Lenora Street, Seattle

Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm

Free and open to the public.

For information, please call 206.726.5011 or email events@cornish.edu

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to announce two concurrent solo exhibitions featuring work by alumni Erik Geschke and Bryan Smith, on view March 2 - 24, 2006. The opening reception is on Thursday, March 2 at 5 pm in the Cornish Main Gallery. Each of the two artists will give a talk discussing their work: Erik Geschke's Artist Talk is Friday, March 3, at noon, while Bryan Smith will give an Artist Talk on Tuesday, March 21, at noon. Both exhibits and artist talks are free and open to the public.

A mixed media artist, **Erik Geschke** explores the everyday world around us by deconstructing the familiar and repositioning the obvious. Geschke's work investigates how the natural world is presented and packaged for easy cultural consumption via the cinema, television and museum. Often using familiar cultural signs, Geschke systematically peels back the layers of artificiality to explore the human need for things familiar. Geschke received his BFA from Cornish College of the Arts in 1993 and his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2001. He was awarded a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Most recently, Geschke was a visiting artist at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and at the Luxun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China. Geschke's work has been exhibited widely; he was featured in a solo show at Zierher Smith in New York City and has been part of group shows at Hammer Museum of Art in Los Angeles and Knoedler & Company in New York City.

Bryan Smith's work utilizes the colors, texture and text of discarded cardboard to create a body of work reflective of painterly forms. Employing printed symbols and text found on cardboard boxes, Smith fabricates compositions that offer a level of cultural familiarity, while simultaneously placing the viewer in a unique and engaging landscape. Smith received his BFA from Cornish College of the Arts in 2000. His work is included in the collections of Microsoft and King County Portable Public Works.

Images available upon request.

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ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Mark Tobey, Martha Graham, Morris Graves, Imogen Cunningham, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Jacob Lawrence, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Bobbie McFerrin, Obo Addy, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Bill Frisell, Robin Holcomb, Jeff Koons, Michael Spafford, Lynda Barry, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Ralph Towner, Mary Frank, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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