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North Carolina artist to expose “Culture of Corruption” in Chicago

Banner Elk, NC – August 22, 2006 – Dave Alsobrooks, a North Carolina mixed medium artist and designer will expose the “Culture of Corruption” at ARC Gallery in Chicago (www.arcgallery.org). The politically charged exhibition will run August 30 through September 30 with an opening reception Friday, September 8 at 6 pm.

The “Culture of Corruption” encompasses a range of materials and techniques ranging from motor oil and matchbooks to rubber hammer marks and collages money. Each piece displays a different medium.

“That’s the idea,” says Alsobrook. “Each portrait in the show reflects the words or deeds of the person represented. In other words, the medium is the message about each person.”

For example, President George W. Bush is rendered in motor oil. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez in phone wires. Former Chief of Staff Scooter Libby in white correctional fluid. Other figures represented include Condoleezza Rice, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Gale A. Norton, Michael Chertoff and Tom Delay.

The show is best categorized as political satire with nine portraits depicting government officials involved in alleged scandals. One can often find the artist with tongue firmly in cheek.

“I feel that the overwhelming majority of current cases seem to point to the GOP and a ‘Culture of Corruption,’ if you will. I’m merely acknowledging it in a public way through my painting,” says Alsobrooks.

Accompanying the paintings in Chicago will be a concept book displayed on a gilded oil barrel that elaborates on the political satire of the show. Alsobrooks maintains the show should be taken seriously, but not too seriously.

“It isn’t a condemnation of any previously cast vote or current political persuasion. I wanted to start a dialogue about some serious problems I see in our nation’s current policies as set forth by the Bush administration,” said Alsobrooks. “Make no mistake about it — I’m dealing with serious topics and bold statements. The content isn’t, however, anti-American or unpatriotic. Ultimately, I’d like to see our nation regain control of its role at home and abroad for the betterment of us all. I believe a good place to start is acknowledging the problems we have and making changes for the better.”

For more information about the show, including images of the paintings visit www.culture-of-corruption.com. The book accompanying the exhibition will be available as a downloadable PDF on the COC website or by purchase through lulu.com.

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