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NC ARTIST ASSEMBLES A “CULTURE OF CORRUPTION” AT DURHAM ART GUILD

Durham, NC - March 24, 2008 - Dave Alsobrooks, a painter from Efland, NC, will expose the “Culture of Coruption” (COC) at the Durham Art Guild. The exhibition tackles political themes and will run April 3 through May 8 with an opening reception Thursday, April 10, 5 - 7 pm.

The COC portraits utilize an array of materials and techniques ranging from motor oil and matchbooks to rubber hammer marks and collaged money. The Durham show is the third hanging of COC, with previous shows in Chicago, IL and Boone, NC. Alsobrooks began creating the series in 2004.

“Through specific mediums each portrait in COC reflects the words or deeds of the individual represented. In other words, the medium truly is the message” says Alsobrooks.

For example, President George W. Bush is rendered in motor oil. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez in phone wires. Former Chief of Staff for Dick Cheney, Scooter Libby, in white correctional fluid. Other officials depicted include Condoleezza Rice, “Dick” Cheney, Don Rumsfeld, Gale A. Norton, Michael Chertoff, Tom Delay, Karl Rove and Paul Wolfowitz.

The show is best categorized as political satire with the 11 portraits illustrating key elements of alleged scandals and biographical information about various government officials. The artist maintains his tongue is firmly in cheek.

“It’s as if the majority of members in this most recent “Culture of Corruption” are predominantly from one side of the aisle. I’m just putting a viewpoint out as a departure for dialogue,” says Alsobrooks.

Accompanying the COC paintings is a book, displayed on a gilded oil barrel. The volume elaborates on the political satire of the exhibition. Alsobrooks maintains the show should be taken seriously, but not too seriously. “It isn’t a condemnation of votes or affiliation. My aim really is to generate dialogue about some serious problems in our nation’s policies as set forth by the current administration, says Alsobrooks. “Make no mistake about it — there are serious topics and a few bold statements, but the content isn’t unpatriotic. I envision our nation regaining control of its domestic and foreign agendas in time to make this world a better place. I believe the best place to start is to acknowledge the broken parts and to fix them.”

For more information about the show, including images of the paintings, visit coc.davealsobrooks.com. Version 2.0 of the book accompanying the show is available in electronic form from the COC site and will soon be available for purchase through lulu.com.

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