



THE RALLS COLLECTION

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING, PHOTOGRAPHY, PRINTS, & SCULPTURE

For Immediate Release

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The Ralls Collection Presents: *American Beauty*, Paintings by Nicole Charbonnet

Washington, D.C. (March 1, 2010) – The Ralls Collection is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by New Orleans-based artist Nicole Charbonnet from March 17th through May 29th 2010. There will be a private reception with the artist on Wednesday, March 17th, 2010 from 6:00 – 8:00PM at the gallery.

The paintings featured in *American Beauty* use iconic images from American pop culture as a way of exploring our past and present perceptions of ourselves and others. Inspired by the process of memory, Nicole Charbonnet uses painting as a tool for investigating and representing the phenomenon of recollection and imagination. Her painting technique of layering textures, images, words, and translucent veils of paint, fabric and paper, serves to imitate the way memories are constructed. Viewers are challenged to look at, into and through these layers, thereby recreating the act of remembering. The subject matter of the work in *American Beauty* draws on viewers' shared cultural memory to address their identities as members of society.

Nicole Charbonnet was born in New Orleans in 1966. She received a BA from University of Virginia in 1988 and a MFA from Boston University in 1991. She has received numerous honors and awards for her work, some of which include the Esther B Kahn Award, the Donna Perret Rosen Artist in Residency and grants from Art Matters, Louisiana Division of the Arts, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation. She currently lives in New Orleans with her son Peter Waggoner. Her work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad. This will be her inaugural exhibition at The Ralls Collection.

The Ralls Collection was established in 1988 as a private art dealership, and expanded in 1991 with the opening of a gallery bearing the same name. The gallery specializes in contemporary painting, photography, prints, and sculpture. Located at 1516 31st Street, NW in Georgetown, The Ralls Collection is open Wednesday through Saturday, from 11:00am to 4:00pm and by appointment.

Attention Editors: To receive more information, please call 202-342-1754. There will be a reception with the artist on Wednesday, March 17th, 2010 from 6:00 – 8:00PM. Visuals available upon request.

1516 31st Street, NW • Washington, DC 20007 • 202-342-1754