

Hollywood Squares: 500 Paintings by Franco Mondini-Ruiz

March 18 – April 15, 2006 Festive opening Saturday, March 18, from 6–8pm

LightBox is pleased to announce the opening of Franco Mondini-Ruiz's first West Coast solo exhibition *Hollywood Squares: 500 Paintings by Franco Mondini-Ruiz*.

Best known for his sculptural vignettes composed of a vast array of found objects addressing cultural and social bias, the Tejano artist presents a similar narrative, in the form of small acrylic paintings.

These highly affordable and accessible paintings -- 500 paintings, priced at \$500 each -- dubbed "perfect gifts" by the artist, are charming, seductive yet poignant and are adorned with titles such as: *Woman in View of Rome*, *The Memoirs of Ruth Buzzie*, *Bellini's at Fellini's*, *Gucci Goo*, *Woman on her Mobile*, *Catty Couple*, *Mink in Malibu*, and *Tea near a Tar Pit*. A unique sense of humor pervades the work.

During the first week of the exhibition the artist will be in the gallery engaging with the public as well as executing commissioned work on the themes from his show. This continues the tradition of the "botanica" established by the artist in San Antonio in the mid-nineties, and *Infinito Botanica*, in front of the Whitney Museum where he sold small objects and knick-knacks as part of his participation in the *2000 Whitney Biennial*.

Franco Mondini-Ruiz was the recipient of the 2004 Rome Prize and called one of the "25 Shakers and Movers" in *Artnews*. He has participated in a wide range of international exhibitions including the *2000 Whitney Biennial*; *Ultrabaroque* in 2002; *Pan in the Park* at the Laumeier Sculpture Park, Missouri; *Botanica* Los Angeles at UCLA Fowler Museum; *Giant* at Marfa Ballroom, Texas; and the *2005 Prague Biennial*.

During the exhibition, Franco Mondini-Ruiz's book *High Pink*, published by D.A.P., will be in bookstores. In *High Pink*, Mondini-Ruiz mixes personal narratives with images of more than fifty of sculptures from his series Nacho de Paz. Signed copies of *High Pink* will be available at LightBox.

Hollywood Squares: 500 Paintings by Franco Mondini-Ruiz has been organized by Scenic, a New York-based curatorial agency. Scenic partners Simon Watson and Craig Hensala create art projects for a diverse cultural clientele. Please visit www.scenic-group.net

Tamy Ben-Tor:

