

For Immediate Release

Rebecca Campbell

October 29 - December 5, 2009

Opening reception: Thursday, October 29, 6 – 8 pm

New York, New York- Ameringer | McEnergy | Yohe is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition of new paintings by Los Angeles based artist Rebecca Campbell. *Rebecca Campbell* opens to the public on Thursday, October 29 and will be on view through December 5, 2009.

Best known for her bold, figurative paintings, in this exhibition Campbell explores the unconscious with surreal images that challenge the distinction between representation and abstraction, reality and fantasy. The inspiration for this body of work began with Campbell's interest in crossing autobiographical subject matter with allegorical material by drawing on experiences from her own life as well images from her dreams. Campbell writes about the organic development of her creative process as "evolving into an experiment where the tangents and desires of the unconscious became my motivation. Happily, wading into the surreal enlarged my process into a poetic call and response where injecting childhood phantasm into quotidian rites and circumstances gave me a new perspective on both."

Campbell develops her ideas by taking photographs of staged subjects, which she then proceeds to render as drawings or small studies before addressing larger canvases. The ground of each painting consists of a single vibrant color, which lights the work from beneath. Upon this ground Campbell juxtaposes thin washes of translucent colors, with thick impasto and sweeping brushstrokes to build her composition.

Rebecca Campbell (b. 1970) was born and raised in Salt Lake City, the youngest of seven children in a strict Mormon family. By age twelve, Campbell had begun to develop a critical eye, questioning the parameters of the church and the role it ascribed to her gender. Refusing to bow to the pressure of conformity, Campbell spent her teenage years developing her passion to make her art, which included sculpture and installation, as well as painting and drawing. Campbell left Utah to study at Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, Oregon, receiving her B.F.A. in 1994. While continuing to make art, she worked as an independent exhibition curator in Salt Lake City from 1994 through 1998. In 1998, Campbell received a residency at the Vermont Studio Center and, in 1999, moved to Los Angeles where she earned her MFA from UCLA in 2001. This is the artist's second solo exhibition at Ameringer | McEnergy | Yohe.

Next Exhibition: *Helen Frankenthaler*, December 10 – January 23, 2009

Ameringer | McEnergy | Yohe is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 6 pm and by appointment. For further information and visuals, please contact: Thomas Quigley at TQ@Ameringer-Yohe.com

Above image: *For Fragonard and My Mother*, 2009, Oil on canvas, 36 x 27 inches, 91.4 x 68.6 cm

