

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alexis Smith

Living Dangerously

at Margo Leavin Gallery

22 November 2003 – 3 January 2004

Margo Leavin Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Alexis Smith. The exhibition, *Living Dangerously*, will include more than twenty mixed media collages, and will be on view at the gallery from 22 November 2003 – 3 January 2004. This will be Smith's ninth solo show at the Margo Leavin Gallery in the twenty impressive years she has been with the gallery.

Since the early 1970s, Alexis Smith has created mixed media collages using found imagery and objects to explore American mythology and social concerns. Using the medium she has perfected, Smith challenges herself and the viewer to be brave and to speak up. In this new body of work Smith responds to the current political climate by confronting public perceptions of good and evil in a post *September 11, 2001* world. The stimuli may be new, but the themes are classic. Working with actual newspaper photos from the past two years, Smith places herself in a dangerous realm between political critique and propaganda. In a departure from previous work, these examinations are pointedly lacking text and a definable point of view. By remaining ambiguous, the collages offer the viewer an opportunity to formulate their own conclusion about not only America's place in the world, but also the artist's place in the work.

Alexis Smith's work has been the subject of over fifty solo exhibitions, most notably at the Whitney Museum of American Art (1975), the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (1986), the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1986), a retrospective organized by the Whitney Museum (1991) which traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1992), the Miami Art Museum, Miami (2000), the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (2001), and the University of Wyoming Art Museum (2003). Additionally, Smith's work has appeared in many group exhibitions, including *An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture*, Museum of Modern Art (1984), *Sunshine and Noir: Art in L.A. 1960-1997*, organized by the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark (1997), and *Beau Monde: Toward a Redeemed Cosmopolitanism*, Site Santa Fe Biennial (2001). Large-scale permanent installations include *Snake Path* (1992) at the University of California, San Diego, terrazzo floors for the Los Angeles Convention Center (1993), and the Schottenstein Center sports arena, Ohio State University (1999), and *Taste*, an installation for the Getty Center.

Margo Leavin Gallery is located at 812 North Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles.
Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

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