

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gary Simmons

Diggin' in the Crates

at Margo Leavin Gallery

21 May – 25 June 2005

Margo Leavin Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Gary Simmons, *Diggin' in the Crates*. This show, featuring recent paintings, drawings, and sculptural work, will be on view from 21 May through 25 June 2005. This will be the artist's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery.

Simmons' latest work explores the cyclical nature of language - particularly that of slang - and examines how language constantly changes in various cultures and sub-cultures. The title of the show, *Diggin' in the Crates*, refers to a phrase used by DJs when they rummage through racks of records to find break beats. One sculpture in the exhibition, entitled *That's Just the Way that I Talk Yo*, consists of a white fiberglass replica of a 1970s boombox. It plays a track of the seminal rap song "Ebonics" by Big L along with a semiotics lecture read by Ellen Ross, all mixed by DJ Rob Swift. In the paintings and drawings, image and word function as signs, slang as object, a radio as cultural communication.

Gary Simmons lives and works in New York City. He graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 1988 and went on to receive an MA from Cal Arts in 1990. Simmons has received wide-reaching acclaim as a conceptual artist delving into social and racial topics. In 2003, he had a mid-career survey organized by The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, which traveled to the MCA in Chicago and Site Santa Fe in New Mexico and concluded at The Studio Museum in Harlem. He has also had solo exhibitions at the Lannan Foundation in Los Angeles and the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego. In March of 2006, he will have an installation of new work at the Bowen Foundation in New York.

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

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