

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact: Joe Reorda****Alexis Smith
“Words to Live By”**to be presented at the Margo Leavin Gallery
16 October - 13 November 1999

The Margo Leavin Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of recent works by Alexis Smith. The exhibition, entitled *Words to Live By*, will include approximately fifteen works and will be on view at the Robertson Boulevard gallery from 16 October through 13 November 1999.

Since the early 1970s, Smith has created mixed media collages and assemblages using found images and objects combined with text from a variety of sources, from Emily Bronte to Raymond Chandler to Diana Vreeland. Imbued with an incisive wit and use of visual pun, Smith’s work explores American mythology and the social milieu.

In the new works, Smith investigates the intersection of taste and fashion, finding the overlap both ironic and amusing. In this century, “good taste” has become synonymous with the popularly understood concept of “high class” stylistic sophistication, and its converse, “bad taste,” has become equated with the unfortunate failure to conform to prevailing notions of beauty, propriety, and, most of all, style. The juxtaposition of the timeless aesthetics of “taste” with the dictatorial newness of “fashion” provides Smith with rich and provocative material.

Alexis Smith’s work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, most notably at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1975); the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (1986); the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1986); a retrospective organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art (1991), which traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1992); the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus (1997); the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (1997-98); and a forthcoming exhibition at the Miami Art Museum (2000). Additionally, Smith’s work has appeared in many group exhibitions, including *An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1984) and *Sunshine & Noir: Art in L.A. 1960-1997*, organized by the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek (1997). Large-scale commissioned projects include *Snake Path* (1992), and *Taste*, an installation for the Getty Center restaurant (1997). This will be Alexis Smith’s eighth solo exhibition at the Margo Leavin Gallery.

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