

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jim Torok: Clowns and Portraits
January 16 – March 6, 2010
Opening reception Saturday, January 16, 6 - 8pm
Artist talk begins at 7pm

Lora Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce our third solo exhibition by Brooklyn based artist Jim Torok. The artist will give a public talk at the gallery on January 16 at 7pm, please see additional details below.

The exhibition *Clowns and Portraits* will feature a new series of paintings on panel and paper as well as new small-scale portraits in oil on panel. The artist's most recent paintings are gestural depictions of clowns in which Jim Torok examines the area between abstraction and figuration. Like Picasso, Lautrec, Nauman and others before him, Torok explores this often personal and introspective subject matter. These paintings draw a parallel to the artist's cartoon-like alter ego seen in many of his earlier works as both depict long, oval faces, skinny necks, and large noses. Employing both the paintbrush and his fingers as tools, building layer upon layer, these works are undoubtedly the most expressive, self-exploratory renderings of Torok's career.

In dialogue with this series will be four new portraits, softer in palette and striking in contrast to both the spontaneity and expressiveness of the clowns. This is especially evident in "Self Portrait" where a stoic, photo-realistic Torok gazes out of the intimately sized oil on panel. The dusty gray-green of the artist's shirt and pale blue backdrop are a calm counterpart to the vibrant reds and yellows of the clowns.

Jim Torok was born in South Bend, Indiana in 1954. He currently lives and works in Williamsburg, Brooklyn with his wife, Mary Carlson. His work is included in many important private collections internationally, and has been shown in numerous exhibitions nationally. Torok's work has been acquired by many museums including the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.. Torok is currently included in a three-person exhibition entitled, *Portraiture Now: Communities* on view at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. through July 5, 2010.

Jim Torok: Clowns and Portraits will be on view at Lora Reynolds Gallery, 360 Nueces, Suite 50, Austin, Texas 78701 from January 16 through March 6, 2010.
GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. For further information please visit our website, www.lorareynolds.com, contact Emma Cole at 512.215.4965 or emma@lorareynolds.com.