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**Irvine Contemporary**

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***Leading Contemporary Art In Context***

**(Washington, D.C. – May 15, 2008)** – The Irvine Contemporary gallery in the nation's Capital has created a new paradigm for contemporary art where intelligence, integrity, and knowledge of the art value context set it apart as one of the new premier art galleries in the U.S. As a major destination for art enthusiasts and collectors seeking to understand the diverse international contemporary art scene, Irvine Contemporary is a respected mentor providing the best real-time art knowledge for collecting and learning about today's rising artists. Irvine Contemporary's total program for artists and collectors provides incomparable value and creative diversity.

Irvine Contemporary will highlight original painter and urban art scene master, James Marshall (Dalek) in his only 2008 solo exhibition, *Overweight*, May 17 to June 21. A student of Takashi Murakami and follower of many sources from street art and American hard-edge pop to the geometric minimalism of Sol LeWitt, Marshall's new series of works is a breakthrough in abstract art and a remarkable achievement for a painter in any category.

The gallery's newly configured space for the James Marshall exhibition will include a lounge setting where visitors and guests can network and socialize and learn more about the vital scene of contemporary art. Irvine Contemporary currently partners with Dissident Display, a DC-based creative collective, to film events for web screening on the gallery site and stream online video content to an international audience.

Another popular gallery artist is Paul D. Miller (DJ Spooky). Museum, gallery, and major art exhibition exposure (*Venice Biennale*) have been providing a developing context for his work and his reputation as an accomplished composer and digital music and sound producer. This ahead-of-the-curve artist is creating buzz in a huge and emerging hybrid genre that can be sampled on several limited edition DVDs of *New York Is Now*, Irvine Contemporary's first project with the artist. A new project is based on Miller's recent film and sound explorations in Antarctica.

"Our artists all understand what it means to be working in their mediums today," says Dr. Martin Irvine, gallery Director, "and here they are in dialogue with the most important conversations in today's art world." This world is expanding, and Irvine Contemporary seeks to represent those rising and established artists who are a part of the story of art in our own time. "The exciting thing about art today is that artists now see their work in a dialogue across all the art mediums," Irvine explains. "If you're working in photography you're also aware of the energy generated in all of our visual culture. Painters, sculptors, photographers, video and sound artists—they're all crossing boundaries and creating new kinds of works we've never seen before. It's an exciting and thoroughly contagious moment for following art and being part of it."

Dr. Martin Irvine, a Ph.D. from Harvard University, and Lauren Gentile, MAAB from Sotheby's Institute, London, bring their extensive knowledge and expertise exclusively to Irvine Contemporary, providing valuable collector services like art advising and consulting and art appraisals. Innovative program components at the gallery like exclusive insider art talks reflect their dedicated leadership and creative talents.

The energy at Irvine Contemporary is all about story-telling, and it is a grand tale. Dr. Martin Irvine provides gallery visitors and collectors with artistic context and connection in an interactive space that complements a broad range of artistic styles, genres and categories, from the most treasured minimalist renderings in pen and ink and leading painters and photographers to today's high-tech, multimedia digital art and design forms. Harnessing an artist's unique perspective and specialized talents. Irvine Contemporary heightens the creative

Imagination at Irvine Contemporary is not limited to the canvas or gallery space. The Irvine Collectors Circle is a group of about 30 young professionals in the Washington metro region who support the gallery's artists. They receive special benefits, like an insider's view of the gallery program or first choice of new works by artists they collect. Thanks to Irvine Contemporary they are part of an emerging and influential collector base – a regional community with a global reach. Irvine Contemporary is a definitive epicenter for contemporary art discourse and practice.

### **ABOUT IRVINE CONTEMPORARY**

Irvine Contemporary is a full-service gallery specializing in early and mid-career artists with growing national and international reputations. Irvine Contemporary is home to leading edge exhibitions, artist and gallery talks, music performances, art video screenings, collector receptions, and student seminars. The inclusive gallery program works to develop the long-term sustainability represented artists and the contemporary art market. Irvine Contemporary has participated in art fairs during The Armory Show in New York and for the past three years in Miami during Art Basel including at emerging contemporary art fairs such as Scope.

1412 14th St., NW • Washington, DC 20005 • 202-332-8767 [www.irvinecontemporary.com](http://www.irvinecontemporary.com) HOURS: Tuesday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. and by appointment

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