

For Immediate Release

Judith Page

Beauty and Beast

A Gothic sensibility, wry wit, and a gentle, reaffirming testament to the essential resilience of the human spirit distinguish the work of Judith Page on exhibition at the Luise Ross gallery. A major installation of small drawings and collages visually relates the artist's adult autobiography—who she is, who she has become. Arranged in a grid composition complete with diary cover and binding, the installation mimes--but supersedes and edits—Page's adolescent written diary pages. In the same autobiographical vein as the visual diary, several significant found and received objects, now painted or reconfigured by Page into sculptural forms, become totems and visual signposts of the artist's history. And through the alchemy of Page's art, these works transcend the particular and the personal into the experience of being human.

Perhaps the most telling and moving paintings in the show, however, are the contemporary renderings of the Mouseketeers—again, ambiguously iconic images in Page's youth—now gone off to war. “Bobby in Baghdad” and “Annette Around Abu Ghraib” are quintessential portraits of “innocence...lost” and “beauty defiled,” making a prophetic mockery of “Wednesday: Anything-can-happen day!” and a plaintive prayer of “See you real soon!”

Title: **Judith Page**
 Beauty and Beast

Dates: **30 October – 22 December 2004**

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