



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swarm Gallery is pleased to present two artists in the upcoming exhibition

### **RENEE ADAMS | CORSAGE** **RIA BRODELL | AN UNEXPECTED VISIT**

Project Space  
**AS ONE...AS MORE | Nathaniel Parsons**

October 10 - November 8, 2008

Artist Reception | Friday, October 10, 2008, 6-8PM

**OAKLAND, Calif.** – 28 August 2008 – Swarm Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition featuring works by Seattle-based artist Renee Adams and Portland-based artist Tia Factor. These shows capture elements of nature in their most imaginative – Renee's fantasy flora, created in meticulous detail and Ria's inventive pen and acrylic storybook illustrations revealing odd landscapes filled with human-bird hybrids, worm-bunnies, and bearded yaks.

**Renee Adams'** work is deeply rooted in the biological world and depicts a distinctive artificial reality. She is fascinated with the inherent qualities of life and the importance we grant them. Anomaly and normality, virility and frailty, beauty and repulsion are each inherited traits that exist simultaneously and often inharmoniously in the natural world. Using both natural and artificial materials, Adams creates imaginary hybrid species that are delicate, alluring and sometimes awkward or disturbing. Much of her work questions ideals of beauty and the way in which we manipulate nature or ourselves to attain it. Referring to the eccentric drawings of German biologist, Ernst Haeckel, she depicts plants, animals and microorganisms in intimate detail.

Boston-based artist **Ria Brodell** playfully explores "The Distant Lands" (series title) in her works -- they are beautiful, vast, uninhabited and unblemished by human influence. There are many different creatures living here whom she carefully observes. Her drawings and sculptures are an attempt to represent them and record their characteristics and behaviors.

*"The Wormbunnies were the first creatures I observed. They are gentle and curious animals that live in small communities. They are very social and travel often. Similarly, The Whale and his friend the Submarine journey everywhere together. I would characterize them as old friends and they seem to be highly regarded by the other creatures. The Birdmen, on the other hand, though intelligent and entrusted to spread the news, are rather apathetic to the dilemmas of the others. They often cause mischief. The Clumps and the Sodmonsters are the most troubled of the various creatures. They emerge from the land and can only be distinguished by their temperaments. The Sodmonsters are voracious and aggressive and are constantly vying for more territory. They have been continuously waging war on their more peaceful counterparts, the Clumps. This endless battling has caught the attention of even the most reclusive of the creatures in The Distant Lands."*

In the project space, **Nathaniel Parsons** displays his homemade Midwestern ephemera. His work is imbued with a personal yet quirky American narrative, feeling both familiar and foreign.

### **PRESS CONTACT and IMAGES**

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