

Press Release
December 17, 2008

CONTACT: Amanda Mott
Director of Communications
Tel. 215-965-4068
Cell 267-259-8610
amott@moore.edu

New York-Based Installation Artist Explores 1960's Fame, Fashion and Iconography at Galleries at Moore

January 30 – March 14, 2009

Opening Reception: January 29 from 6 to 8pm, free and open to the public

PHILADELPHIA - *InSights: Devon Dikeou - Marilyn Monroe Wanted to be Buried in Pucci* is a mixed-media installation by New York-based artist, Devon Dikeou opening on January 30, 2009 and running until March 14, 2009 at the Galleries at Moore in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The artist will be present for an opening reception will be held Thursday, January 29 from 6 to 8pm.

In the artist's first solo exhibition in Philadelphia, Dikeou uses Marilyn Monroe's living request to be buried in a dress designed by renown Italian designer Emilio Pucci as the lens through which to reconsider various developments in art and design since the 1960s, particularly as they relate to the social, urban and popular cultural contexts. The exhibition presents a loose biographical narrative described through various components that refer to Pop Art, abstract painting, Minimalism, Performance and Conceptual art. Shown together, the works converge into a historical tableau of a romantic and turbulent era in American culture.

The installation, on view 24 hours a day, seven days a week from Race street in the Galleries' Window on Race, will be comprised of various objects of art, artifacts and design including a 30ft long wall mural and 36 small abstract paintings created by the artist based on a Pucci dress design. The number 36 is significant as it represents how old Monroe was when she died. Five color photographs documenting the American flag hanging at half-mast in New York's Union Square to commemorate the death of the great baseball hero Joe DiMaggio will be mounted on aluminum and hung sequentially showing the change of light on this mournful day in American popular culture (five was DiMaggio's Yankee baseball jersey number).

An American Romance

DiMaggio's adoration of Monroe is evident not only in her lifetime, when he took her as his bride and even after their divorce, but also in her death as he proclaimed his ongoing love for her with six red roses that he arranged to send weekly to her burial site. During the run of the exhibition, The Parisian, the Hollywood florist who upheld DiMaggio's weekly request, will deliver a funerary urn with six red roses, weekly to the installation at Moore.

The exhibition also features a replica of the platinum eternity band DiMaggio gave Monroe. At the opening reception on January 29, viewers will be invited to touch or try on a version of the ring lent to the exhibition by Tiffany & Co. affecting the spirit of this iconic American romance.

About the Artist

Devon Dikeou has exhibited widely throughout the United States and Europe including: Hohenthal und Bergen - Statements: Basel Art Fair 29, Basel, Switzerland; MAMCO, Geneva in collaboration with Outcasts Incorporated; Postmasters Gallery, New York; and more recently at artMovingProjects, Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Dikeou is the publisher/editor of Zingmagazine, a curatorial crossing, an award-winning publication that recently celebrated its 12th anniversary.

ORGANIZATIONAL CREDIT:

The exhibition is organized by The Galleries at Moore and curated by Lorie Mertes, Rochelle F. Levy Director and Chief Curator as part of the *InSights* series of exhibitions presented in the Window on Race on view 24/7 from Race Street in front of Moore.

Moore's 2008-09 exhibition season is presented with support from *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Gallery Sponsor's of Moore's 160th Anniversary Year.

Special thanks to Tiffany & Co. for their participation.

****Photos available upon request**

About the Curator

Lorie Mertes has more than fifteen years of curatorial and museum experience with a focus on international art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Mertes has curated numerous solo and group exhibitions featuring such artists as: Janine Antoni, Russell Crotty, Dara Friedman, Anna Gaskell, Jim Hodges, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Ann Hamilton, Alfredo Jaar, Sarah McEaney, Vik Muniz, Oscar Munoz, Paul Pfeiffer, Miguel Angel Rios, James Rosenquist, George Segal, Shahzia Sikander, Lorna Simpson, and Bill Viola.

Moore's 160th Anniversary Sponsors:

Moore is grateful to the following sponsors of its 160th anniversary: Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest (160th Anniversary Presenting Sponsor); *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (160th Anniversary Galleries' Presenting Sponsor); Fran Graham '66 and Bill Graham (*Moore Footsteps* Alumnae Exhibition Sponsor); Charming Shoppes (160th Anniversary Fashion Show Patron); Wilmington Trust Company (160th Anniversary Lecture Series Sponsor); Comcast (160th Anniversary Senior Show Sponsor); Blank Rome LLP (WHYY 160th Anniversary Video Sponsor); Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust B as recommended by David Haas; Michael Fell and M&M Displays; Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust A as recommended by Carol Haas Gravagno; David's Bridal; Frances and Bayard Storey; and The Four Seasons Hotel.

About The Galleries at Moore College of Art & Design

For the past twenty years, The Galleries at Moore have provided a forum for exploring contemporary issues and ideas through the presentation of a diverse range of exhibitions and programs that offer insights into the work of established and emerging artists. Past exhibitions include the first U.S. presentations of

internationally-renowned artists: Artur Barrio, VALIE EXPORT, Terry Fox, Raymond Hains, Jean-Frédéric Schnyder, and Roman Singer. Serving the only art and design college for women in the US, the Galleries have featured solo exhibitions of significant women artists and designers including: Jo Baer, Janet Biggs, Dara Birnbaum, Hanne Darboven, Jay DeFeo, Marlene Dumas, Barbara Ess, Viola Frey, Marisol, Jacqueline Matisse, Alice Neel, Adrian Piper, and Faith Ringgold. Major group exhibitions featuring women artists include: *Guerrilla Girls Talk Back: A Retrospective: 1985-1991*; *The Philadelphia Ten: A Women's Artist Group 1917-1945*; *Painted Faces: Mary Cassatt, Karen Kilimnick, Alice Neel*; *Gloria: Another Look at Feminist Art of the 1970s*; *Women to Watch: Photography in Philadelphia*; and *IN REPOSE: Images of Women by Women*.

The Galleries at Moore receives generous support from Moore College of Art & Design and the Friends of The Galleries at Moore. The Galleries also receive state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency as well as program support from the Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Barra Foundation. In addition, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities, supports The Galleries at Moore. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Galleries at Moore

Moore College of Art & Design
20th Street and The Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1179

All exhibitions are open to the public, free of charge.

Contact: 215.965.4027 / galleries@moore.edu
www.thegalleriesatmoore.org / www.moore.edu

—END—

Moore College of Art & Design sets the standard of excellence in educating women for careers in art and design. The nation's first and only art college for women, Moore offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with ten majors. The award-winning faculty, 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio and central location in Philadelphia, place Moore BFA students at the center of a vibrant, supportive community of artists, designers and scholars. In addition, Moore provides many unique opportunities in the arts through The Galleries at Moore, continuing education programs for professional adult men and women, the acclaimed Young Artists Workshop for girls and boys grades 1-12, The Art Shop and Sculpture Park. For more about Moore, visit www.moore.edu.

#