

**BEN MALTZ GALLERY
MEDIA RELEASE**

Media contact: Kathy MacPherson, galleryinfo@otis.edu, 310.665.6909. Images available.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY, 2005

June 4 – July 23, 2005

Cruise & Destroy: The Imagination of Fat Mark Bikes

Reception for the artist Saturday, June 4, 7-10pm

The Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art + Design and Guerilla One are pleased to present new low-rider bicycles designed and created by Fat Mark Kaake and his crew of collaborators: Jim Muir, CR Stecyk, Opie Ortiz, Swankone, Justin Reynolds, Steve Fawley, Marco Saiz, Josh Knight, and Skully.

Fat Mark scours vintage-bike swap meets across the U.S. for parts and collaborates with artists to do special paintwork on the converted bikes. With the support of his mentor and legendary Dogtown photographer Craig Stecyk, he has developed a signature style and a creative network of talented artists to help him articulate his aesthetic vision.

This exhibition at the Ben Maltz Gallery coincides with the film release of Sony Pictures' *Lords of Dogtown*. The show includes Fat Mark's collaborative efforts with Craig Stecyk and Dogtown kingpin Jim Muir. The focal piece of the exhibition is Fat Mark's installation, a Pacific Ocean Park Tribute that features Dogtown photographs, pier pilings and sand. Also included are Fat Mark's first low-rider ice cream cart bike and car set, and three new extreme bike designs.

Rising from the bottomless pit of urban Long Beach, within viewing distance of the legendary V.I.P. Records, Fat Mark Kaake has been building low-rider bikes since the tender age of ten. Juan Gonzales, a family friend, encouraged Fat Mark to create fender kits and bicycle accessories that have become the template that most low-rider bike designers use to begin building. In 1996, at the age of 13, Fat Mark won several design and installation titles at the L.A. Low-rider Super Show. Since then, he has aligned himself with the "Seven Seven Cartel," (a group of Long Beach artists associated with both art and music), who transform the functional into art.

Fat Mark has a background in art direction, and has designed layouts for such bands as Sublime, Slightly Stoopid, JWD, and Capitol Eye, and Skunk Records. He has presented the culture of the low-rider bike to the art community through exhibitions such as *The OsCene: Contemporary Art and Culture in OC* at the Laguna Art Museum, and *Spin Cycle* at Track 16 Gallery. Related links: www.fmbicyclecompany.com, www.77records.com, www.guerillaone.com

(more)

The exhibition is sponsored in part by: Don and Leslie Collins, Greg and Kristin Escalante, Debra Jacobson/L'Imagerie Fine Art Gallery, Steve Jones, Kung Fu Records, Mark Mower and Kathleen Stanley/Moshag Productions, Inc., James Marland, Marquez Family, Jim Muir, Jolene Myers, Jay and MiShell Nailor/M Modern Gallery, Greg and Marcela Phillips, Judy and Stuart Spence, Craig Stecyk, Track 16, Vivian Geffen and Obie Scott Wade

Also showing through July 30 at Otis College of Art + Design

Robert Williams: Through Prehensile Eyes

Standards of Reality: Five Artists from Barcelona

Location: Otis College of Art + Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking: Free visitor parking in structure on La Tijera and on the street

Gallery Hours: Tue – Sat: 10a – 5p / Thu: 10a – 7p. Closed Mondays & major holidays. Closed May 28-30 and July 2-4.

Gallery Office Hours: Mon – Fri: 10a – 5p

Gallery Admission: Free

Information: 310.665.6905, galleryinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu

Gallery Tours: 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups.

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