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STEPHEN COHEN GALLERY AND ARTILLERY presents
PHOTO ARTILLERY: In the Realm of the Lenses

January 15 – February 13, 2010
Artist reception Friday, Jan. 22, 7–10pm at Stephen Cohen Gallery

Los Angeles – Stephen Cohen Gallery and Artillery presents "PHOTO ARTILLERY: In the Realm of the Lenses," a group exhibition from January 15 through February 19, 2010. This exhibition, guest curated by Tulsa Kinney and Paige Wery, Artillery's editor and publisher respectively, explores sexuality employed by artists using photography-based work. The artists listed alphabetically include: Ray Beldner, Kim Crum, Marta Edmisten, Gerald Förster, Gordon Magnin, Johnny Naked, Naida Oshline, Christopher Russell, Austin Young and Carrie Yury. "In the Realm of the Lenses" borrows and riffs on the notorious sexually explicit 1976 Japanese film, *In the Realm of the Senses*, directed by Nagisa Oshima. While the film was famous for its graphic sex scenes, it was also filmed beautifully. This group exhibition uses that range of sexual depiction; from the sensual to the graphic, from softcore to hardcore, including gender identity. Each artist brings their own sense of prurient interpretation using various forms of photography through the Internet, magazines, video, digital and film photography.

ABOUT THE CURATORS:

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Tulsa Kinney is the editor and co-founder of Artillery, a Los Angeles-based contemporary art magazine since 2006. Her background in art includes numerous exhibitions as a painter and video artist. She has also published articles and reviews in the Los Angeles Times, Artweek, LA Weekly and LACityBeat, and co-wrote and directed the play Art Star. She was raised in the Heartland and moved here to obtain her MFA from USC in the late '80s and has been involved in the LA art scene ever since.

Paige Wery is the publisher and advertising director of Artillery. She earned a golf scholarship to UCLA, but gave up the sport to study fine art at California College of Arts in Oakland with an emphasis in painting. Paige co-founded G.A.S. (Group Art Show) for three years and curated events in Hollywood, which included music and comedy. Gallery Revisited represented her artwork for five years including the self-published zine, ARTPage. She is currently preparing for a solo show at Haus Gallery in fall, 2010.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

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Ray Beldner, a San Francisco-based artist, makes art from the stuff of everyday life: clothing, cash, stolen items, porn. The work takes the form of sculpture, installation, digital media, text-based work and applied arts. It is frequently derived from conceptual ideas that deconstruct hierarchical systems "high art" versus "low art," "intrinsic value" versus "commercial value," and so on with ironic humor. Beldner received a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and an MFA from Mills College. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. The Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco represents his work.

Kimberley Crum is a second year MFA candidate at Ohio University. Crum's postgraduate work mainly revolved around an interest in identity and the methods in which identity is constructed. More recently she explores performance/video and installation as a means to communicate with her audience about trans-gender identity, pansexualism, and the inadequacies of our cultures binary taxonomy in relation to gender and constructed identity. The need for Crum to comment on these social interests have enabled her to

explore many different mediums such as High definition video, projection, site specific installation and working with appropriated imagery.

Marta Edmisten is a photographer and conceptual artist based in Brooklyn, New York. She earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in Printmaking. Her work explores the uncomfortable realm between what is real and imagined – both in the context of the Internet and the physical world. She is currently working on pieces about her real life role as a housecleaner. Marta has shown in numerous group exhibitions in New York and San Francisco, as well as Web-based shows. Her work will also be featured at the AQUA fair this fall in Miami. She has also had a solo show in Los Angeles at Another Year in LA.

Gerald Förster was born in Germany in 1964. He graduated from the School of Photography in Bielefeld in 1985. Today he lives and works in New York. In addition to his commercial and editorial work he has pursued long-term fine art photography projects. The "LightYears project" was his first solo show exhibited in October 2006 at Jenkins Johnson Gallery in New York City. The photographs represent an intimate collection of black-and-white photo and video portraits of people throughout the world, exploring differences of wisdom, dignity, integrity and strength of character shared by all human beings. "Nocturnal" his most recent series, won numerous international prizes including the Euro Press Photography Award in 2006, where Förster creates intimate, sexual scenarios of diverse couples in the context of elaborate and oddly disconcerting night landscapes.

Gordon Magnin is a Los Angeles-based artist who works in collage and altered found image. Magnin's interest lies in the inventive use of geometry, pattern, repetition, form, perspective, and systematic operations as methods to distort and subvert the intended objective, interpretation, and significance of consumer based images. Gordon has shown both locally and internationally including a residency and exhibition in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec. He recently closed his first solo exhibition titled 10:10 at gallery 825 in Los Angeles. Gordon Holds a Masters Degree from (SCI_arc) and a BS in structural engineering from the University of Nevada,

Reno and completed studies at Mountain School of Arts in Chinatown in 2008.

Johnny Naked (aka Walter Lutz) began his artistic endeavors in Philadelphia where he grew up, honing his photographic and storytelling skills. He acquired his BA in filmmaking from Penn State University, where he wrote and directed several short films including SPACE: The Distance Between The Beginning & The End, which was featured at the 25th Annual Worldfest-Houston. Naked's work has been exhibited at galleries and festivals in Toronto, London, New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles. In 2006 he had his solo show debut with the year-long interactive art project "The Ever-Changing Naked Picture Project" at LA's Gallery 825. He currently resides in Los Angeles making his living as a visual media artist through the crafts of filmmaking, photography, writing and acting.

Naida Oslie is a photo-based artist who is currently working with psychoactive plants, flowers, insects and the human body to touch upon ideas of nature in a constant state of flux, with organisms being affected by natural selection, biological processes, scientific intervention and consumer desire. She lives and works in Southern California. She has had three solo exhibitions in Los Angeles at Acuna-Hansen Gallery, along with solo exhibitions at CSUF Grand Central Art Center and The Office. Oslie's work has been included in group shows at Laguna Art Museum and the UCR California Museum of Photography, among others. She has been reviewed in the Los Angeles Times, Artweek and Artscene.

Christopher Russell is a Los Angeles-based artist and writer. He received his MFA from Art Center in Pasadena, California, in 2004. Russell produced the "destroy-to-enjoy" literary art zine Bedwetter for four years. Kolapsomal Press published Landscape, a monograph on his work, in 2007. Russell edited and wrote an essay for the catalog that accompanied his curatorial debut, "Against the Grain" at LACE in 2008. He has exhibited his work in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago with his work in various public collections including the Getty Research Institute, NYU, MOCA Chicago and MOCA Los Angeles. His first museum show "Budget Decadence" at the Hammer Museum was last year, along with his solo show at Circus Gallery, where he is currently represented.

Austin Young is a Los Angeles-based artist who works primarily in photography and video within the context of "the portrait." He is also a member of the art collective Fallen Fruit. His solo work has been shown in numerous galleries in LA, with his most recent solo show of transgender portraits from 1987 to 2006 at ArtMurmur Gallery. His work with Fallen Fruit was exhibited in two solo shows this past year at LACE and Another Year In LA. His portrait subjects have included Siouxsie Sioux, Debbie Harry, Jimmy Scott, Sandra Bernhard, Karen Black, Joe Dellasandro, Ann Magnuson, Amy Poehler, Chris Crocker and more. His short video entitled The Stroke won best of 2003 from ADD-TV and Strange Fruit won best experimental short at The Silver Lake Film Festival.

Carrie Yury is Southern California-based artist. Her photographic series "Room- diptychs" featuring semi-naked women's bodies that simultaneously display and disrupt the classic ideal of the female nude, debuted as a solo exhibition at Sam Lee Gallery, Los Angeles in May 2009. Yury has had solo shows in Los Angeles and Chicago. In addition her work has been shown in Miami, Atlanta and New York in group exhibitions, including The Oscene at The Laguna Beach Art Museum, Veronica at Pitzer Art Galleries, and The Wight Biennial at UCLA. Yury holds two Masters degrees: an AM in English from the University of Chicago (1996), and an MFA from the University of California at Irvine (2006).

ABOUT STEPHEN COHEN GALLERY:

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The Stephen Cohen Gallery, since 1992, has presented over 100 exhibitions of both vintage and contemporary photographs and photo-related artwork. An early emphasis on 20th-Century documentary and photojournalism expanded to include the exploration and support of the genres of surrealism, portraiture, and collage. In addition, Stephen Cohen Gallery focused on bringing classic European photography to Los Angeles. With an extraordinary commitment to the connoisseurship of fine art photography, and an eye toward expanding the public's view of the medium, Mr. Cohen began organizing his first photo exposition, photo l.a., which opened in January 1992. Since that time Stephen Cohen has organized over 40 art fairs including photo MIAMI, artLA, photo san francisco, and photo new york.

ABOUT ARTILLERY

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Artillery, established since 2006 and published in Los Angeles, is a bi-monthly contemporary art magazine distributed for free throughout California and the New York metropolitan area. We offer provocative and readable articles on the art world with in-depth interviews, artist profiles, critical reviews, news and gossip. We avoid the academic art jargon that usually leaves readers snoring. Though we are LA-based, we cover the international scene with contributors in New York, San Francisco, Dallas, Berlin, London and at the biennials. Artillery is a serious magazine dedicated to the idea that coverage of the art world should be as diverse and fun as the art world itself.