

D'AMELIO TERRAS—

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Philip Van Aver

January 24 - February 21st, 2009

Opening Reception: Saturday January 24, 6-8pm

D'Amelio Terras is pleased to present the first solo show of small gouache paintings on paper from 1980 to 2001 by New York artist Philip Van Aver. Van Aver creates detailed images of Baroque figures, decorative objects, flowers and plants enclosed in vibrant, coloristic borders. The compositions borrow formal ideas of recurring figures and spatial relations from Surrealism yet there is no effort to depict light or depth. Pure perspective and real objects are drawn together in a straight-forward harmony which Van Aver says is influenced by the direct imagery of traditional folk music, "but like The Child Ballads there is often an evocative undertone of menace or violence."

Van Aver's subjects range from the Washington State landscapes of his youth to repeating renditions of Dido ensconced in ferns, Lilies of the Valley and bluebells seen in Central Park. There is an attention to costume and Van Aver's depictions of figures in various dramatic and narrative situations reference the early 20th century French fashion magazine, *La Gazette du Bon Ton*, as well as 18th century Japanese woodblock prints of women by Kitagawa Utamaro.

In the early 1960s Van Aver was part of the San Francisco artistic literary community where he illustrated publications for Dave Haselwood's Auerhahn Press from 1961-63 and The Grabhorn-Hoyem Press from 1967-70. Van Aver's first solo exhibition was with William Sabersky Gallery in Los Angeles, CA, in 1962. His artworks are in the collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and The San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art. Van Aver has illustrated for numerous publications including New York Magazine, Vogue, Harpers Bazaar and The New York Times. Since the 1970s, Van Aver has been active with the political club Coalition for a District Alternative (CoDA), the Lower East Side Preservation Initiative and the Metropolitan Postcard Collectors Club.

Above: *Still Life with Statue of Hercules and the Hydra*, 1997. 8 1/4 x 6 3/4 in.

For more information about the show: <http://www.damelioterras.com>

For press and visuals requests please contact Bridget Donahue at 212.352.9460 or at

bridget@damelioterras.com. D'Amelio Terras shows Adam Adach, Massimo Bartolini, Delia Brown, Jedediah Caesar, Nicole Cherubini, Tony Feher, Roland Flexner, Joanne Greenbaum, Leslie Hewitt, Matt Keegan, John Morris, Robert Moskowitz, Rei Naito, Noguchi Rika, Demetrius Oliver, Cornelia Parker, Dario Robleto, Heather Rowe, Sam Samore, Karin Sander, Noah Sheldon, Yoshihiro Suda, and Sara VanDerBeek.

