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**NEW MUSEUM PRESENTS PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES, AND FURNITURE
BY MARY HEILMANN IN FIRST NEW YORK MUSEUM RETROSPECTIVE**

NEW YORK, NY – “Mary Heilmann: To Be Someone” at the New Museum will be the first solo museum exhibition and retrospective of the artist’s work in New York. On view in half of the building from October 22, 2008 – January 26, 2009, the show will include more than 60 paintings, ceramic sculptures, furniture and fabric made by the New York-based artist over the last forty years. Heilmann (b. 1940) is one of the preeminent artists of her generation—a pioneering painter whose work injects abstraction with elements from popular culture and craft traditions. A “painter’s painter,” her straightforward, seemingly loose and casual approach belies a witty dialogue with art historical preconceptions.

Heilmann’s work has been deeply influenced by her personal experiences, including a childhood and adolescence moving from Los Angeles-area beaches to Bay Area beatnik clubs. The impact of this thoroughly West Coast childhood is seen in the vibrant, lusty color palette, sense of boundless possibility, and experimentation for which Heilmann’s paintings are known. The sense of movement and rhythm evident in the work—as well as many of the paintings’ titles—are connected to Heilmann’s enthusiasm for popular music ranging from Brian Eno to the Sex Pistols, to k.d. lang, and beyond. Her free abstractions combined with an element of autobiography, has made



Gordy's Cut, 2003, oil on canvas, 42 x 36 in. (106.7 x 91.4 cm). Collection of Carol and David Appel, Toronto.



Surfing on Acid, 2005, oil on canvas, 60 x 48 in (152.4 x 122 cm). Collection of Orange County Museum of Art.

MORE

Heilmann's paintings highly influential to a younger generation of artists. Ultimately, Heilmann's practice can be seen as an all-encompassing network linking genres, styles, friends, locations, and histories—enabling each individual work to speak eloquently on its own terms as well as in a larger chorus.

The presentation of “Mary Heilmann: To Be Someone” at the New Museum on the Bowery is organized by Richard Flood, Chief Curator. The exhibition originated at the Orange County Museum of Art, where it was organized by Elizabeth Armstrong, Deputy Director for Programs and Chief Curator.

“Mary Heilmann: To Be Someone” received major support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and Altria. Significant funding was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, state-of-the-art building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

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Music from Big Pink, 2001, oil on canvas.
50 3/8 x 40 in. (128 x 101.5 cm). Hauser & Wirth Collection, Switzerland.