

For Immediate Release

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**Exhibition showcases new work by illustrator and painter Kris Chau
September 1, 2011- October 8, 2011**

Kris Chau brings a touch of whimsy to The Art Gallery

COLLEGE PARK, Md. – University of Maryland’s The Art Gallery proudly presents an exhibition of works that explore the softer and more whimsical side of illustration and fine art.

The exhibition, entitled *Brown Eyes, Black Ink* features the latest works by rising artist Kris Chau in a variety of media, including paintings, illustrations, installations, and drawings. Chau depicts wildlife, plants, and female figures with exaggerated lines, curves, and swirls in a style reminiscent of the lighthearted children’s book illustrations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

What makes Chau’s works unique is her integration of stylized, handwritten text and poetry with playful and sometimes fantastical, hybrid images of nature and human forms. Contemporary art magazine *High Fructose* has hailed her works for their ability to effectively communicate the thoughts and feelings of her subjects to the viewer: “The texts appear to be linked to the characters portrayed in the works, allowing the reader into their assumed state of minds. The figures also often act as vessels for plant life, and occasionally sprout flower-like tumors from their hair and skin. This inclusion of flora and fauna imagery cements Chau’s poetic work within a unique feminine perspective.”

Kris Chau was born in Oahu, Hawaii and now resides in Philadelphia. She was trained as an illustrator at California College of Arts and Crafts. She has done a wide range of editorial work, murals, installations, and work in the fashion industry. Her selected client list includes *The New York Times*, the *Seattle Stranger*, BC Shoes, Urban Outfitters, TopShop, Day Dream Nation, *Foam Magazine*, *Swindle Magazine*, and Free People. She is currently a member of the prestigious studio and artist collective Space 1026. Chau has been featured in solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, Honolulu, and Philadelphia. Her work was also featured in numerous group exhibits in New York, San Francisco, and Milan.

Brown Eyes, Black Ink is curated by The Art Gallery director John Shipman. The public opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Thursday, September 1, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibition will remain open to the public through Saturday, October 8, 2011. The Art Gallery is located at 2202 Art-Sociology Building on the University of Maryland College Park campus. Please visit www.artgallery.umd.edu or call 301-405-2763 for more information.

The Art Gallery is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The gallery is also supported in part by the College of Arts and Humanities, the University, as well as national, state and local arts agencies, foundations, corporations, and private donors.