

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIZA RYAN: New Work

LEON GOLUB: Paintings and Drawings: 1968-2003

January 28 – March 11, 2006

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 28th from 7 to 9 pm

GRIFFIN is pleased to announce two exhibitions: new work by Liza Ryan in the main gallery and paintings and drawings by Leon Golub in the west galleries.

Liza Ryan, in her sixth solo exhibition at GRIFFIN, will exhibit new photo-based works in the main gallery.



In this latest collection of new works, Ryan examines the fluid nature of metamorphosis by drawing, collaging, and cutting on the surface of her photographs to create intimate fusions between the human body and nature. In one example, a delicate vine drawn onto a bare torso seems to intertwine with and extend the subject's own network of veins. The similarities in form between plant matter and our human body are emphasized to an extent that differences between the two become indistinguishable. Ryan harnesses a subtlety and refinement of vision that compels the viewer to suspend belief and indulge in this metamorphosis and to move beyond the physical into the fantastical.

GRIFFIN Editions has published an 84-page hardcover book on the work of Liza Ryan which will be released concurrently with this exhibition. Ryan's work is held in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Maison Européen de la Photographie Paris among others. She lives in Los Angeles, California.

Liza Ryan
Untitled, (2006)
Inkjet print and graphite
20" x 16"

Seven never-before exhibited paintings by Leon Golub (1922-2004) will be shown in the west gallery. Spanning fifteen years and several of Golub's most acclaimed series -- including the *Burnt Man* and *Napalm* works -- these paintings explore human violence and the politics of power with the intensity that made Golub a monumental and controversial figure in the art world through the last half of the twentieth century.



These seven paintings incorporate many of the formal traits that separated Golub from his contemporaries. Painted to the very edges of unstretched canvases cut or torn into irregular shapes, Golub's fragmentary figures seem to be ripped from larger scenes of chaos, violent conflict, and human struggle. Throughout his career, he returned to these iconic figures and poses to continually address the violence of war -- even as many of his contemporaries moved into abstraction and less politically-charged subject matter.

Leon Golub
Burnt Man, 1969
Acrylic on linen
23 x 26 inches

In addition to these scenes of bodily distress, Golub also returned to other motifs throughout his long career, such as mythical creatures and Greek Classicism. These themes are evident in the group of small-scale drawings from 2002-2003 on view in GRIFFIN's project room. While these smaller works are by no means a retreat from Golub's aesthetic ferocity, the artist expressed joy in the freedom of working in this format. He identified the drawings as a way of "slithering through, skimming, interrupting" while still being "political and aggressive."

Golub's work was featured in Documenta 11 in Kassel, Germany and a major, touring retrospective in 2001. His work may be found in most major 20th Century museum collections around the world including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Tate Gallery, London.

For additional information, please contact the gallery at 310-586-6886 or e-mail info@GriffinLA.com.