

For Immediate Release:

Dawn Mellor, *The Flesh and the Fury*
15 February through 15 March 2003

Team Gallery is pleased to present the U.S. debut of British artist Dawn Mellor. Entitled *The Flesh and the Fury*, the exhibition will run from the 15th of February through the 15th of March 2003. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

Dawn Mellor's appalling paintings and infantile drawings focus on celebrity as practiced in the U.S. and exported abroad, particularly as it relates to the construction of femininity. Like a high school girl trapped in a woman's body, like some Karaoke queen, Mellor internalizes the anguish caused her by a constant barrage of picture-perfect starlets. She devours these images in an act of cultural cannibalism and spews out fantastical results. At once psychologically charged and culturally vacant, Mellor's results are scatological in the best sense of the word.

Mellor paints with a scabrous floridity. Her images are garish and toxic, yet the centrality of her heroines also make the paintings oddly moving. Although vulgar and unpleasant, you can't take your eyes off them. The subjects of the paintings in the Team show are Jennifer Lopez, Madonna, Elizabeth Taylor, Nicole Kidman, Barbara Streisand and, of course, Britney. Each both a monster and a glittering jewel.

There is a discreet yet channeled vengeance in her drawings, over a dozen of which will be on view. Taking as their subjects the girls from *Friends*, Penelope Cruz, Courtney Love, Cameron Diaz, Anna Nicole Smith and sundry others, Mellor's drawings turn the gallery into a bizarre waiting room in which we are free to ogle mags while killing our time. It is partly our desire for a new art star that always frames a New York debut, and here we have one that knows how brightly the stars do shine.

Mellor has had solo shows at Victoria Miro in London, at Il Capricornio in Venice, and at Galerie Drantmann in Brussels. Her paintings were recently included in *Remix* at the Tate Liverpool. Ms. Mellor was born in Manchester, England. She currently lives and works in London where she teaches at the Royal College of Art.

For further information and/or photographs please call the gallery at 212.279.9219. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6pm.