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Paramount Bank Opens “Materialistic” Exhibit at Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery

Three Detroit area artists' works explore the function of jewelry, shoes as sculpture, and women's clothing as art

Farmington Hills, Mich., March 30, 2007 - Paramount Bank Ferndale today announced the opening of its newest Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery exhibit: “Materialistic” - featuring jewelry, sculptural shoes, and clothing by three Detroit area artists, Sarah Kate Burgess, Tom Carbone, and Annica Cuppetelli. The exhibit will run through April 28, 2007.

“The artists in this exhibit question the role of the material in body adornment items, as well as the function of the item itself,” says curator, Narine Kchikian. “Approaching their materials in a non-functional way, they come up with the visual solutions, which take body adornment to the unusual directions.”

Sarah Kate Burgess received her MFA degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Her work has been featured in “Metalsmith” magazine and has been included in numerous exhibitions nationally and internationally. Burgess consistently questions the function of jewelry and jeweler through her unique use of material and technique. Her jewelry work explores the limits of wearability, the function of jewelry and our limitless urge to decorate.

Tom Carbone is a furniture designer who received his BFA from the College for Creative Studies. His many years in industry have been spent in the areas of prototyping, advanced engineering and product development. His recent body of work includes the line of sculptural shoes that he created with the idea to transform the foot into an icon of itself.

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"My design direction is centered on a visual 'common sense'; there is a natural or intuitive aspect of functional sculpture that not all shoes achieve," says Tom Carbone. "I try to achieve a balance between old and new, in weathered and finished, and in low tech and high tech." For Carbone, "the shoe is an extension of the foot and the foot is always better looking with a shoe attached!"

A fifth generation seamstress, Annica Cuppetelli is continuing the tradition of integrating fabric, form and fashion. She received her BFA from College of Creative Studies and is a current candidate for MFA at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. She has been working in the industry and has developed a line of women's clothing called "dress". Cuppetelli is using the process of creating a repetitive accumulation of material to express the absence or presence of the body and its surrounding space.

"Clothing is more than a cover for our body—it also serves as personal and artistic expression. Cloth is a fluid material that can be manipulated to create unique textural surfaces and 3D shapes," says Cuppetelli.

The reception for the exhibit is 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2007. The exhibit will be on display during bank hours at Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery at 22635 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale, MI 48220. Bank hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. – noon. For more information on the gallery and exhibits, visit www.theparamountgallery.com or call (248) 414-6500

About Paramount Bank

Paramount Bank, founded in 1998, was established to serve the Oakland and Macomb County communities with financial products and services that meet the needs of today's customer. Paramount offers a full-range of banking services including commercial and residential lending and currently has full-service branch locations in Birmingham, Clinton Township, Farmington Hills and Ferndale. For more information, visit www.paramountbank.com or call (800) 421-BANK.

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