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REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OUR COMMODITY:

Juan William Chávez, Sarah Frost and Leslie Mutchler

**Three promising young artists address our consumerist society
in this exhibition, opening Friday, February 8, 2008**

ST. LOUIS (January 8, 2008) The Gallery at the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) kicks off its 2008 season on February 8, 2008 at 5:30 pm with the opening of *Our Commodity*. The exhibition, curated by Shannon Fitzgerald, includes sculpture, installation, video, collage and drawing by Juan William Chávez, Sarah Frost and Leslie Mutchler.

The three artists explore multiple themes in their art, but find common ground in the investigation of the place art occupies in a world defined by consumerism of goods and ideas.

Chávez, founding co-director of Boots Contemporary Art Space in St. Louis and winner of the 2008 *Great Rivers Biennial*, captures social situations in drawings that he produces at the spot. "The adrenalin of *live drawing* helps me connect and participate with the subject's social experience," says Chavez.

While Chávez focuses mostly on situations, Frost and Mutchler address the more tangible aspect of our consumer society. **Frost's** work "examines our culture through the collection of its remains, such as discarded consumer objects." Through her collages, video, drawings, and installations, **Mutchler** investigates consumer desires to purchase an organized lifestyle. Her digital drawings of cabinets and shelving systems are fragile and robust at the same time – evidence of the dichotomy in her work as the storage systems "grow in response to collection, yet strive to minimize such expansion."

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(over)

My Commodity – first and last add

WHEN:

Opening Reception open to public -- Friday, February 8, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Exhibition – Through Sunday, March 23, 2008

Gallery Talk – Wednesday, March 19 Reception 6:30 p.m. Talk 7 p.m.

Gallery Hours – Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

WHERE: The Gallery at the Regional Arts Commission
6128 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63112
On the Delmar Loop across from The Pageant
www.art-stl.com
Parking available in the lot behind The Pageant;
some metered street parking available

INFO: Diane Kline (314) 863-5811 x 24 or Diane@stlrac.org

About the Regional Arts Commission

Founded in 1985, the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) is a cultural catalyst in the St. Louis area, providing financial, technical, promotional and other support for arts organizations. Directed by a board of fifteen commissioners appointed by the chief executives of St. Louis City and County, RAC is a pivotal force in the continuing development and marketing of the arts in the region. Since its inception, RAC has awarded more than 5000 grants totaling \$63 million. In May 2007, 209 of the area's arts organizations, consortiums and cultural programs, large and small, received grant awards totaling more than \$3.5 million, funded by a portion of the hotel/motel room sales tax. RAC's four-story facility including the area's first Cultural Resource Center is located at 6128 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., 63112 in the exciting new stretch of The Loop neighborhood. Contact the organization by calling (314) 863-5811 or by visiting www.art-stl.com.

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