

PRESS RELEASE

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“The RED & the BLUE”

A Group Exhibition including: Kim Abeles, Lara Bank, Amy Franceschini, Shepard Fairey, James Graham, Marc Herbst, Wendy Heldmann, the Journal of Aesthetics and Protest, Rachel Mason, Travis Millard, and Richard Serra

**October 30,- November 20, 2008 at Occidental College
Opening Reception on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 6-9pm**

“The Red and the Blue,” a group exhibition on political art, will be on view at Occidental College’s Weingart Art Gallery, located at 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles, CA 90042. For more information and hours call 323-259-1409, or www.oxy.edu.

“The Red & the Blue” brings together artists working in different veins to address current political issues. Opening a week before Election Day, the show aims to incite a discourse and critique on Washington politics under the current administration and to build excitement about the opportunity for change in this forthcoming election.

The title, *the Red & the Blue*, refers to our two party electoral system, and the rivalry it ensues. Despite the intense partisanship in today's political climate, both Democratic and Republican candidates have expressed shared criticism of the current administration’s ability to manage dire issues. The economic crisis, dependency on foreign oil, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and global warming are a few of the major problems that the next presidential nominee will inherit.

The show includes a full spectrum of approaches to political art including drawing, painting, video, sculpture, interactive installations, and printmaking. Richard Serra addresses the issues of torture in his lithograph, “Abu Ghraib,” referencing the image of a hooded Iraqi prisoner; Kim Abeles confronts environmental issues in her *Smog Plate* series; and Rachel Mason’s video performance, “*Model Anthem*,” conveys the absurdity of nationalism. The exhibition will open the week before Election Day to celebrate our democracy and stress the great importance that this election bears.