



***Creating art that challenges perceptions of disability***

212 Third Avenue North, Suite 140, Minneapolis, MN 55401

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**INTERACT GALLERY PRESENTS:**

***IDOLS AND ICONS***

*Exploring people, places and things that have become  
embedded in our collective consciousness.*

**May 13 – August 31, 2011**

Opening reception Friday, May 13 6-9pm

At the Interact Gallery



Dalai Lama by Gail Harbeck



Sid Vicious by Karl Robinson



Golden Gate Bridge by Deb Figoni


(Minneapolis, MN) — From the Dalai Lama to Lady Gaga; The Golden Gate Bridge to the Harley Davidson, Interact artists explore people, places and things, both famous and infamous that have become embedded in our collective consciousness.

Inspiration for Interact Gallery's new exhibit, ***Idols and Icons***, opening Friday May 13, presented itself organically to Gallery/Exhibitions Manager, Stephanie Rudd. When reviewing work created over time by Interact Studio artists, themes of religious, political and pop culture iconic imagery consistently emerged. For the show, studio artists considered the idea that art throughout history often reflects the idols and icons of societies and cultures.

The artists further explored the idea and for some, the work created is a reflection of those people, places, and objects that have affected them personally. For others the work portrays society's seemingly collective idols and icons – both famous and perhaps infamous. The show includes a small painting of a polar bear because the artist sees god in these magnificent creatures. For another, her longing to go back to a certain time and place in her life is reflected in her delicate pencil drawing featuring the Golden Gate Bridge. And there's also the Queen of England, Lady Gaga, Sid Vicious and Mother Teresa!

“There is so much amazing work for this show,” says Rudd. “Everyday I find another piece that has to be included.” It is a show that is fun, exciting and at once personal to both artist and audience. “You have to put away the dictionary and experience your own personal definition of what is an idol and icon.” And finally, it is a show that will make you smile, from the instant recognition of the Dalai Lama to the slightly controversial depiction of Sarah Palin!

The opening reception on Friday, May 13 from 6-9pm is free and open to the public and includes food, fantastic art for sale and the music of The Birdtown 4! The Interact Gallery is located at 212 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Suite 140 (Gallery entrance on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N) in Minneapolis.

Presented in partnership with the Colonial Warehouse 

The **Interact Gallery** is open M-F, 10am-4pm and by appointment. Proceeds from sales support artists' commissions and Interact studio.

For more information, [www.interactcenter.com](http://www.interactcenter.com), or call Stephanie Rudd at (612) 339-5145.

### **About Interact**

**Interact** is the only place of its kind in the nation: a professional-level visual arts studio and theater that supports the creative growth of artists with disabilities. Spanning cultures and generations, the 100+ artists that make up Interact range in age from 22 to 94, and bring a wide diversity of cultural backgrounds, aesthetic perspectives and life experiences to their work. Interact artists create unique work that is affordable and highly collectable in the contemporary arts environment.