

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, May 1, 2007**

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**Mingering Mike: The Amazing Career of an Imaginary Superstar**  
**Tina Newberry: New Paintings**  
**June 2 - July 28, 2007**

Washington DC – Hemphill Fine Arts opens *Mingering Mike: The Amazing Career of an Imaginary Superstar* and *Tina Newberry: New Paintings* on June 2, 2007 with a public reception from 6:30-8:30 pm. The exhibitions remain on view through July 28, 2007.



*Mingering Mike: The Amazing Career of an Imaginary Superstar* will showcase music enthusiast Dori Hadar’s findings from a Washington DC flea market: box upon box of record albums by an unknown soul musician, Mingering Mike. Hadar’s curiosity was piqued as he had never heard of such a musician. Upon close examination, Hadar observed that these “records” were in fact hand-made of cardboard. Intricately crafted and hand drawn, some even shrink-wrapped, these records document a dream career for any musician: hit singles produced by fictitious record companies, movie soundtracks, albums recorded live in concert, and a compilation of greatest hits.

This incredible body of work documents the self-taught artist’s journey into adulthood during the cultural and political tumult of the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War, all of which are reflected in the fantastic career Mingering Mike created for himself. The exhibition has been organized in conjunction with the release of the book *Mingering Mike, The Amazing Career of an Imaginary Superstar*, by Dori Hadar, published in May 2007 by Princeton Architectural Press.



*Tina Newberry: New Paintings* highlights Newberry’s finely detailed paintings, which confront various issues stemming from the artist’s interest in family legacy, the Civil War, and self-examination. The artist casts herself as various characters within her paintings, allowing different personas to emerge, accomplishments to be achieved, and time periods to be experienced. This series of paintings addresses 19th century Americana and the Civil War. In the painting *Mine Eyes Hath Seen...*, 2007, the artist casts herself as a would-be war hero with her trusty hobby-horse. Pictures of Civil War soldiers are posted on the wall. A model form stands at attention and a pair of eyes emerge from the wall - one saluting and one witnessing the artist as soldier.

Tina Newberry received her M.F.A. in painting from Indiana University. She teaches painting at Drexel University and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art. Her work has been exhibited in Pennsylvania, Washington DC, New Jersey and Indiana and was included in the Outwin Boochever 2006 Portrait Competition Exhibition at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

**BOOK SIGNING & RECORD RELEASE**

with Mingering Mike  
 Saturday, June 2  
 4:00 - 6:30PM

**GALLERY HOURS**

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and by appointment.

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR REPRODUCTION.

TOP IMAGE: MINGERING MIKE, CAN MINGER MIKE STEVENS REALLY SING, 1969, MIXED MEDIA, 12 3/8" X 12 3/8"  
 BOTTOM IMAGE: TINA NEWBERRY, MINE EYES HATH SEEN..., 2007, OIL ON BOARD, 12" X 15"

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