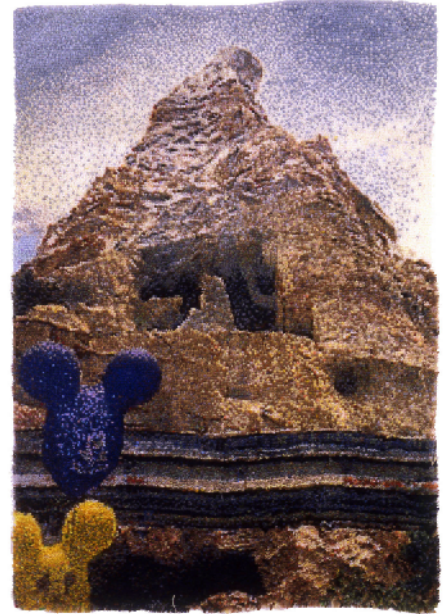


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# ROB CONGER *Tragic Kingdom*

north gallery • JANUARY 5–FEBRUARY 4, 2006 • Opening: Thursday, January 5, 6–8pm

**Mixed Greens** is thrilled to announce Rob Conger's first solo show in their new space. The show will consist of his latest series of latch-hook rugs depicting specific locations in America's most iconic theme park, Disneyland.

In the summer of 2005, Disneyland celebrated its 50th Anniversary with the "Happiest Celebration on Earth." Four years earlier, in anticipation of this celebration, Rob Conger began to research less widely publicized events at Disneyland, namely eleven deaths that happened on the park's grounds.

To memorialize these tragedies, Conger visited Disneyland to take snapshots of the rides and locations where the accidents occurred. Then, he painstakingly reproduced each postcard-perfect scene as a large-scale latch-hook rug (each rug measures approximately 48 x 69 inches). Using a hand hook, similar in shape to a crochet hook, individual pieces of yarn were pulled through a mesh backing to create each piece. Through such crafty production, Conger acknowledges his own suburban upbringing as well as the backgrounds of many of Disney's fans. He purposefully chose to break from the kitten and butterfly legacy of latch-hook to represent a darker side of America's favorite vacation spot.

Rob Conger graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University and then Yale University with his MFA in sculpture (1994). Recent articles published on his last body of work, "Nine Very Charitable Men," will appear in both *Business Week* and the *DC Examiner* (fall 2005). Solo shows have taken place at Mixed Greens, NYC (2003, 2004) and group exhibition venues have included the Renaissance Society, Chicago (2004), Virginia Commonwealth University (2004) Elizabeth Oliveria Gallery in Oakland, CA (2002) and White Columns, New York City (1998, 2002).

**Mixed Greens** sells original contemporary art online, through our catalog and in our New York gallery. Founded in 1999 on the belief that great art should be accessible to everyone, the gallery currently represents a diverse group of artists, including painters, photographers and sculptors.