

**JONATHAN**  
**FERRARA**  
g a l l e r y

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 14, 2010 (New Orleans, LA) Jonathan Ferrara Gallery is pleased to present *I Say As I Please* featuring new works by artist David Buckingham in his first solo exhibition with the gallery. As a native New Orleanian, Buckingham will explore the profound effect that growing up in this city can have on both its citizens and those whom – for various misfortunes - it has lost. The artists will use his iconic welded repurposed metal wall sculptures to mine the memories of the “many things that ‘ain’t dere no more.”

Of the works to be exhibited, Buckingham says:

*When I think of New Orleans, I think of nectar creams at the K+B fountain on Broadway at St Charles, the late great Buster Holmes restaurant, rushing home from high school on the streetcar to read Tommy Griffin’s column in the States Item, sportscaster Hap Glaudi, weatherman extraordinaire Nash Roberts, my Schwegmann’s hurricane tracking map, Dixie Beer’s infamous bad batch of ‘75, my 1984 World’s Fair pass, concerts at the Warehouse, Professor Longhair live at Tip’s when it opened in ‘77, the intoxicating fragrance of magnolias in bloom, greeting the sunrise from atop Audubon Park’s Monkey Hill, attending the first rock concert in the newly opened Louisiana Superdome in ‘75, being able to drive through Audubon Park at all hours, several nights in Central Lockup, ‘submarine races’ at the Lakefront, ODing on cholesterol at Deanie’s in Bucktown, hearing my grandfather speak Cajun French with his friends (they always switched to French when they didn’t want us kids to know what they were talking about), Ruthie the Duck Lady, Morgus the Magnificent, the razing of Pontchartrain Beach, brushing with Dr Tichenor’s, Momus and Comus (R.I.P.), Archie Manning, the barbecued shrimp at Manale’s, “Show your tits!”, and holes in my Perlis alligator shirt from the burning flambeaux at Mardi Gras parades.*

*I am drawing on all of these things for my show. I left New Orleans many years ago, but New Orleans has never left me. It is my favorite city on the planet and to this day is the place I am most comfortable.*

*I know what it means to miss New Orleans.*

*Yeah you wrong!*

-David Buckingham, 2010

**David Buckingham**

With an advertising background, Buckingham worked at agencies in Boston, New York, Australia, San Francisco and Los Angeles. In the early 90’s he met Ray “Cowboy” Kelly, who had started a Lower East Side movement called the Rivington School, a group of anarchist welders and poets and performance artists who had taken over an abandoned lot on Rivington Street and built odd scrap metal towers. They were also working out of an abandoned gas station at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and B in New York which is where Buckingham received his first welding lesson. After this, he began to weld in earnest upon his arrival in L.A. in 1999 at which point, his career began to snowball.

Once in Los Angeles, Buckingham became obsessed with making art. Venturing into the Mojave, he discovered tons of old, battered colorful metal – ancient cars, trucks, hay balers, rice threshers, school buses – and began to work exclusively with these materials. Having spent 20 years as a professional writer, text and words play an integral role in his artwork. Lines from movies are central to many of his pieces that reflect on the major business role movies play in L.A. and perverse impact on our cultural identity. Mass culture that has been pounded into his head for nearly 45 years now acts as a catalyst in his artwork. Cartoon sound effects, guns of infamous assassins and text lines are created from the man-made detritus of a desert landscape.

Buckingham’s work is in the collection of several Hollywood luminaries such as Steven Bocho, Josh Groban, Gwen Stefani, Seth Rogen, Perez Hilton, Prada Milan and Cisneros Foundation.

## Jonathan Ferrara Gallery

Jonathan Ferrara Gallery is a collective environment of creative visions. A commercial gallery with a public conscience. Artist, activist, and entrepreneur Jonathan Ferrara opened the gallery in 1998 to give artists a greater voice. Since its inception, the gallery has focused on cutting edge works by local, national and international artists with a sense of purpose, mission, and message.

For more information and images, please contact Jonathan Ferrara Gallery at 504.522.5471 or [info@jonathanferraragallery.com](mailto:info@jonathanferraragallery.com)

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