

*For Immediate Release*

Contact: Bridget F. Clark  
845-398-4020  
bclark@stac.edu  
Contributing Writer: Carl Rattner

THE AMAG AT ST. THOMAS PRESENTS  
“PARADOX AND CONFORMITY”  
PAINTINGS BY RICHARD DEON

**(SPARKILL, NY – JANUARY 15, 2009)** – St. Thomas Aquinas College’s Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery (“AMAG”) announces its newest exhibit “Paradox and Conformity” featuring work from Richard Deon. The show will run January 25 through February 22.

Richard Deon's paintings are decidedly graphic in nature. They feature striking magentas, yellows and blues applied as a bold background colors to imagery reminiscent of clip art illustration. These formal elements make for visually arresting works which further reveal subject matter that suggest deeper, albeit obscure meaning: odd juxtapositions, visual anachronisms, and a recurring cast of characters: the instructor (with pointer), the scientist (in lab coat), the Native American (in breech cloth) and a man (in tuxedo, always at stiff attention).

Deon explains that “What inspires me is when I can make a confluence of three separate entities work together and unifies them as if they're created for one. I like to create a universal platform; a painting that will pose a lot of questions, so that people will want to look at it two or three times.”

But what in fact are these works about? The underlying meaning may have derived from Deon's childhood fascination with social studies textbooks that were cleverly defaced. According to museum director Thomas Piché Jr., one of these (*Visualized Civics*) characterized by “...emblematic caricatures and heavy-handed labeling to impart lessons in good citizenship...” has inspired a number of Deon's current works.

Deon's childhood interest seems to have evolved into mature artistic expressions that comment on the power of our popular media and its imagery to arrest our attention, shape our perception and very possibly, our values.

The Gallery will hold an Artist’s Reception on Wednesday, February 11, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.. The show is open and free to the community. For regular gallery hours, more information or for other times for groups, call the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery at 845-398-4195.

**MORE ABOUT ST. THOMAS**

The College’s 2,700 full and part time students can choose from 97 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs across five divisions: The Humanities; Business Administration; Social Sciences; Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Teacher Education or are enrolled in one of our graduate programs. St. Thomas has expanded its offerings to include: a Master of Science in Education with specializations in Literacy, Special Education, and Educational Leadership, a Post Masters Certificate program in Education, a Master of Science in Teaching, a Master of Business Administration program, a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Education, and an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree, the latter two offered at the West Point Military Academy. For more information on the College visit [www.stac.edu](http://www.stac.edu).