

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 18, 2011

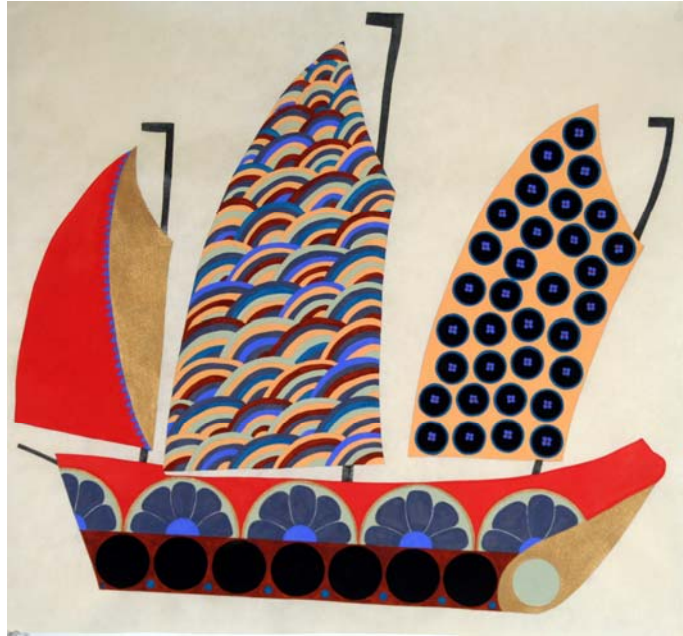
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Photos and complete biographies available on request

Fleet for Abby

New works on paper by Catherine Colangelo



Opening Reception - Friday, July 15, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Artist talk at 7:00 p.m.

Exhibition on view July 15 – August 26, 2011

Project Gallery

Houston, TX – **Art League Houston** is delighted to announce an exhibition of new works on paper by Houston-based artist **Catherine Colangelo**. The opening reception is **Friday, July 15** from **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** with an artist talk at **7:00 p.m.** Catherine Colangelo is a recipient of an Individual Artist Grant Award funded by the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

Prepare to set your sails for an exciting seafaring adventure. *Fleet for Abby* presents an enchanting installation of sixteen beautifully crafted gouache paintings of sail boats on Japanese Okawara paper, inspired by the remarkable story of sixteen-year-old Abby Sunderland's attempt to become the youngest person ever to sail solo around the world. The works in this exhibition explore the intrinsic connections between themes of friendship, youthful adventure and childhood imagination.

Art League Houston, 1953 Montrose Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006

Captivated by Abby's adventurous spirit but also concerned for the young sailor's safety, Colangelo began to develop a fantastical fleet of sixteen sail boats that would accompany Abby and her boat *Wild Eyes* on their long and dangerous journey, providing them with the companionship and protection needed to live out their dream.

Fleet for Abby transforms the gallery into an imaginary ocean, where a fairytale-like fleet of brightly colored, intricately patterned and delicately hand-painted sail boat paintings, playfully escorts a painting of Abby's boat *Wild Eyes* across the gallery walls. Each sail-boat is totally unique, and named after an individual friend from Colangelo's childhood, which references the rich historical tradition of naming ships after women, as well as honors the important friendships that accompany us on our own personal adventures.

About Catherine Colangelo

Catherine Colangelo is a Houston-based artist, who received a BFA in Painting from The Cooper Union in New York. Colangelo's work was included in the Texas Biennial in both 2009 and 2011 and is included The Drawing Center's Viewing Program in New York. She has received Houston Art Alliance Individual Artist Grant Awards in both 2007 and 2011. Colangelo is inspired by outsider art; in particular the obsessive patterning and fantastical creatures that commonly appear in the art of the insane, folk art and various types of illuminated manuscripts.

ABOUT ART LEAGUE HOUSTON

Art League Houston (ALH) was founded in 1948 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1953. The mission of ALH is to cultivate awareness, appreciation, and accessibility of contemporary visual art within the community for its cultural enrichment. Art League Houston fulfills its mission through exhibitions, the Art League School, its annual *Texas Artist of the Year* program, and outreach programming.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Art League Houston is to cultivate awareness, appreciation, and accessibility of contemporary visual art within the community for its cultural enrichment.

SUPPORT

Art League Houston is funded in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Art League Houston acknowledges the following private foundations and corporations for their support this season: Art Colony Association Inc, Axiom, The Brown Foundation, Inc., CenterPoint Energy, ExxonMobil Foundation, Felvis Foundation, The Eleanor & Frank Freed Foundation, Houston Endowment, Inc., Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc., Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, John P. McGovern Foundation, Mrs. Kathrine McGovern, New Leaf Publishing, Oshman Foundation, Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Southwest Precision Printers, Target, Susan Vaughan Foundation, The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation, and the Wortham Foundation, Inc.

Art League Houston also wishes to thank its many generous individual donors for their support.