

**DECEMBER 9, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

1708 Gallery Presents *Painting (in part, and in pieces)* by Barbara Campbell Thomas



IMAGE CREDITS: from top to bottom: *Blue Collider*, Ink and acrylic on paper, 2008; *Moving Collider*, Ink and acrylic on paper, 2008; *Supercollider*, Ink and acrylic on paper, 2007; all images courtesy of the artist, Barbara Campbell Thomas

CONTACT: Tatjana Beylotte, Executive Director, 804.643.1708 or tbeylotte@1708gallery.org

Painting (in part, and in pieces) by Barbara Campbell Thomas will debut at 1708 Gallery on Friday, January 8 and continue through Saturday, February 13.

1708 Gallery will host an opening reception and artist talk by Barbara Campbell Thomas on Friday, January 8 from 6:45 to 10 p.m. Campbell Thomas will begin her talk at 7 p.m. The artist will give an additional talk on Saturday, February 13 at 1 p.m.; the topic of the talk is "Collage and Contemporary Painting" and is free and open to the public.

Painting (in part, and in pieces) comprises large pieced together paintings on paper, small highly layered paintings on canvas and a series of mid-sized collages made in tandem. All the work employs an intensely colorful and fragmentary abstract language of shape, line and texture.

Campbell Thomas's large-scale works hover between the media of painting, drawing and collage. With this blurring of lines, Campbell Thomas questions and challenges the aesthetic boundary and typical definition of painting through her melding of media.

With works reveling in high-keyed colors and juxtaposition of shape and pattern, Campbell Thomas's paintings provide the means of inventing and locating an ecstatic, exuberant, ever-unfolding space that acts as a counterpart to our frenetic existence. The paintings act as a counterpart to the hurried pace of our culture and relentless press of information.

In addition to the formal manipulation of her works, Campbell Thomas constructs her images by delving into the literal construct of painting - shattering the medium's typically unblemished expanse.

Campbell Thomas's work has been exhibited nationally in venues such as the Atlanta Center for Contemporary Art and the Urban Institute of Contemporary Art in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is a member of the Charlottesville, Virginia-based artists' collective *The Printmaker's Left*. Her work can be found in their most recent publication, *The Land of Wandering, Volume One of the Exquisite History*.

1708 Gallery is a non-profit arts organization committed to presenting exceptional new art. 1708 Gallery is committed to providing opportunities for artistic innovation for emerging and established artists and to expanding the understanding and appreciation of new art for the public.

###