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MERION ESTES: SUBVERSIVE PLEASURES

The Remba Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of a solo exhibition of paintings by Merion Estes. The reception for the artist will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, at the Remba Gallery at 462 North Robertson Boulevard in West Hollywood. The exhibition will continue through April 30, 1998.

Merion Estes will present a new series of paintings which are a culmination of her past artistic interests, including pattern and decoration, landscape-derived imagery and sensuality and beauty. These new paintings, however, expand beyond the previous works both visually and conceptually.

These new works, in oil and acrylic, are painted on a background of fabric mounted on panel. Occasionally, the existing patterns of the fabric emerge and play against the painted areas. She has also applied plastic insects and stenciled flower patterns to the surface of the paintings as found decorative elements.

In his essay in the accompanying catalogue, Michael Duncan compares Estes' work to that of Henri Matisse in the visceral and sensual response it evokes in the viewer. He terms her swarming canvases as "alternative universes," and it is easy to feel caught up in the edenic swirl of birds, flowers and waves of technicolor paint.

Estes has been the recipient of an Artist's Fellowship by the J. Paul Getty Trust Fund for the Visual Arts and an Artist's Grant by the California Arts Commission. She has exhibited extensively in California and has future exhibitions scheduled in Europe.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by appointment.