

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cincinnati Area Native Brings NYC Political Punch to Local Gallery

***CRUFT* by Robert Spahr**

**MANIFEST CREATIVE RESEARCH GALLERY
and DRAWING CENTER**

September 30 – October 28, 2005

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, September 30, 6-10 p.m. (refreshments will be served)

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday through Friday 2 – 7:00 p.m., Sat. 12 – 5 p.m. (during exhibit run)

LOCATION: 2727 Woodburn Avenue, East Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206
(Just south of Madison Rd. at DeSales Corner. Map is available at www.manifestgallery.org/map)

PARKING: On street and parking across the street in DeSales Business Lot

**CONTACT: Jason Franz, exhibit Curator and Manifest Executive Director at
513-290-2574, info@manifestgallery.org**

GALLERY PHONE: 513-861-3638

FOR MORE INFO:

<http://www.manifestgallery.org>

<http://www.robertspahr.com>

FULL COLOR EXHIBIT CATALOG AVAILABLE:

<http://www.manifestgallery.org/manifestpress>

MANIFEST kicks off its second season in serious fashion by offering two solo exhibits by two veteran artists with international experience (see Kelly release provided separately). *CRUFT* by Robert Spahr marks the launch of Manifest's *new media pilot program*, with project support provided by a grant from the Fine Arts Fund, and sponsorship by Tri-State Visual Products, Inc. This exhibit brings a Cincinnati area native, but long-time NYC resident, back to town to present his most recent politically loaded work.

For his current work Spahr creates automated scripts and algorithms that harvest images from the Internet as source material, which are then used to generate a new image he calls "Crufts."

Spahr views the Internet as a vast database of images and code from which he derives the materials for his artworks. His creative activities bridge the gap between fine art, software programming, and digital design. The works in *CRUFT* represent Manifest's embracing of New Media, (and the merging of disciplines), as well as the

willing integration of it into the same context as traditional art forms. The exhibit also embodies Manifest's notion of accessibility of artwork to the general public. Spahr's work pushes the limits of conceptual image making, and helps stake new territory in the geography and politics of contemporary art.

What you'll see: 15 lush inkjet prints from five different *CRUFT* sets of the digital imagery created by Spahr's algorithms; a live *CRUFT* which will incorporate imagery from a live video feed in the gallery and global imagery harvested in real time from the Internet; a large-scale digital video projection of dozens of images selected randomly from the thousands in Spahr's *CRUFT* portfolio; and finally, an intriguing comparison between the digital work of Robert Spahr and the hand-crafted drawing work of Kevin T. Kelly in the Drawing Room.

The combination of these two artists, in two simultaneous solo exhibits at Manifest, represents the reunion of two classmates (Art Academy) who both pursued careers in art in New York City, who both began as sculptors but have since adopted 2D media, and who both incorporate elements of 'pop culture' into their work. The similarities and differences promise to make for an interesting and artful cultural experience.

Robert Spahr was born in Wilmington, Ohio in 1966, received a BFA Degree in sculpture from the Art Academy of Cincinnati in 1988 and an MFA in sculpture from Parsons School of Design, New York City in 1991.

Founder and curator of the Kraine Theatre Gallery (1992-1994), Spahr also conceived and organized evenings of theatre, music, dance, film, and performance art which coincided with the gallery's openings. At this time he was also founder and moderator of the *Live Art Workshop* (1993-1994), a group of multi-disciplinary artists, working together to develop collaborative performance.

Spahr then moved on to Co-found and become the Artistic Director of Expanded Arts (1995-1997), a critically acclaimed theatre company in NYC that produced numerous productions in its Storefront Theatre as well as producing *Free Shakespeare in the Park(ing) Lot*. The successful off-broadway *Shakespeare's R&J* was first produced by Expanded Arts in September of 1997. It is now the longest running Romeo & Juliet in the history of Broadway.

Robert Spahr has lived and worked in New York City since 1989. He is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Visual Arts at Dowling College and Adjunct Professor of New Media at SUNY, Purchase College.



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Robert Spahr, 2005



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Robert Spahr, 2005

For more information send e-mail to: info@manifestgallery.org

Mission Statement:

Manifest's goal as a non-profit organization is to serve as a venue for the display and experience of insightful, thought provoking art and design, as well as to function as a hub for creative research and innovation at all levels of artistic endeavor. Manifest's location in the urban neighborhood of East Walnut Hills was chosen to take advantage of the community's own long range plan (06 Vision 2010) to guide the revitalization of the area, in part, by incorporating the arts. Manifest is committed to high academic standards, and seeks to engage the community at that level.