

## Venice Grind to Launch “For The People, By The People” Art Exhibition

*Los Angeles artist Rachel Schmeidler to debut mugshot art series of politicians and regular folks on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2008*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (October XX 2008)--- Los Angeles artist Rachel Schmeidler will be debuting her mugshot art series ”For The People, By The People” this week at the Venice Grind in Venice, CA. This project is a continuation of her successful “Hollywood Most Wanted” mugshot series that made a splash in Los Angeles and was featured on MTV, Fox 11, NBC, and CNN. While “Hollywood Most Wanted” was a series of celebrity mugshots, the “For The People, By The People” mugshot series will utilize mugshots of famous politicians, civil rights heroes, media regulars, and ordinary citizens.

The series will feature mugshots of politicians such as former representatives Tom DeLay, James Traficant, and Larry Craig and civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks who realized crossing the boundaries of the law was sometimes necessary in order to make positive changes. Also featured in this series are media regulars and ordinary and anonymous citizens. “For The People, By The People” intends to explore the connection between past politicians and regular people during this election season. As the line becomes increasingly blurred between right and wrong, this exhibit hopes to bring attention to political issues past and present and contrast them with the concerns and problems of the regular population.

Schmeidler says, “It is important for me to make my art accessible to everyone, and the Venice Grind is the perfect location, with a lot of foot traffic and a diverse crowd. It’s also a place where people converse and perhaps this will get them talking.” The Venice Grind houses a gallery and an adjacent coffee shop. Schmeidler chose the coffee shop to display this series.

The “For The People, By The People” series will be showcased exclusively at the Venice Grind from October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to Inauguration Day in 2009. Rachel developed her own printmaking technique using archival paper and inks for the last series which received positive feedback from the art community.

### **About Rachel Schmeidler**

Los Angeles artist Rachel Schmeidler has been painting and creating artwork since she was a small child living in Germany. Using a variety of mixed mediums, Rachel has created a body of work that reflects contemporary pop culture as well as abstract themes. She learned her techniques at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Art on full scholarship where she assisted in teaching lithography and other printmaking techniques. Upon completing her graduate studies, she apprenticed with a well-known Los Angeles master printmaker where she was exposed to projects by Banksy, Sheppard Fairy and other Los Angeles based artists.

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