

# Thomas Deans Fine Art

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Two exhibitions opening at Thomas Deans Fine Art**

### **Found Objects: Paintings by Rodger Bechtold and Chris Liberti**

### **Aftermath: In the Pink, an Immersive Installation by Leisa Rich**

Dates: April 26 – May 29

**Opening reception for the artists: Friday, April 26, 6:00-8:00 pm**

**Gallery hours: Mon-Sat, 11-5**

Two highly different exhibitions opening the same day fill Thomas Deans Fine Art from the end of April through the Memorial Day Weekend.

In **Found Objects** two artists create a dialog in paint as the gallery features the first-ever exhibition in Atlanta by one of the Midwest's preeminent landscape painters, **Rodger Bechtold**, and the multi-faceted Charlotte-based landscape, still-life, and abstract painter **Chris Liberti**. Both artists are masters of paint and color.

Bechtold is known throughout the Midwest and Northeast for his painterly interpretations of place and moment in landscapes of exuberant color. Based on direct observation, recollection, and invention, his paintings find the grandeur in the everyday. Liberti's images, whether abstract or figurative, are the result of the artist's "attempt to find solace in the simplest of things and to admire the world that's before me." Like Bechtold, Liberti is known for his strong use of color, and the artist is quick to say that his paintings are not merely of objects or landscapes, but represent his "past, present, and future, a reflection of the entirety within."

In a contrasting exhibition, Artist **Leisa Rich** has responded to a recent health challenge by creating several works that magically transform Thomas Deans Fine Art's newest gallery space in **Aftermath: In the Pink**. The show includes a massive, immersive installation that envelops the viewer by utilizing floor, wall and ceiling, wall-hung works of scar-stitched fabrics and zippered openings, stunning embroidered gardens, assemblages, a 3D-printed chrysalis and free motion-machine butterflies, and circular panels of paint and floral fabric, among others elements. The predominant use of white and pink reflect of the innocence and helplessness Rich felt while going through something of this magnitude, a death reckoning and subsequent rebirth as she overcame this major life-changing experience, and the hope that is inherently human as she goes forward and continues to heal. Rich is well known in Atlanta for her wildly inventive and at time challenging installations using a multitude of media, as well as for her intricately beautiful fiber art.

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## **About Thomas Deans Fine Art**

Thomas Deans Fine Art was established in 1983 and is located on Miami Circle, in the heart of Atlanta's art and design district. The gallery specializes in contemporary paintings, contemporary and historical works on paper, and selected contemporary photography. The gallery works regularly with museums, private and corporate collectors, casual buyers, interior designers, and art consultants. Thomas Deans is the founder (1983) and president of Thomas Deans Fine Art and was co-founder of The Gallery Downstairs, London (1985-1997). Mr. Deans has written and lectured extensively about the fine and performing arts, with projects for PBS, The Metropolitan Opera Guild, New York City Center for the Performing Arts, Cleveland, San Jose, Richmond, and Sacramento ballets, the Cummer Museum and Gardens, the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (Florida), the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, the Albany (Georgia) Museum of Art, the Florida Institute for Art Education, and Women's Art Journal, among others.

He has written chapters on British paintings/artists for *The Catalogue of the Collection, St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts* (1994) and *Women Artists*, by Margaret Barlow (1999). He currently serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for the college of fine art, drama, dance, and design at Florida State University.