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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: Holly Andres: Sparrow Lane

SHOW DATES: December 20 – February 14, 2008

RECEPTION: Saturday, January 17, 6-8 pm

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday 10-6

DNJ Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition “Sparrow Lane,” featuring photographs by Holly Andres. In this series, Andres’ creates a narrative of young women on the verge of adulthood. As always with Andres’ work, whether it is photographic or on film, the complex nature of her compositions, her careful and methodical use of color and her ability to invoke natural performances from her models play a major role in the execution of these images.

This series tells the story of four fair-haired adolescent girls discovering hidden truths in the rooms and backyards of the fictional world of “Sparrow Lane.” The girls, peering into a secret doorway or unlocking a closed door, begin the search for forbidden knowledge. Andres’ use of familiar iconography, such as mirrors, birdcages, secret passageways, and skeleton keys, hints at possible meanings in these dramatically rich scenes. Her vibrant colors and theatrical staging dispels any disturbing undertones the images might have; the audience, as a result, becomes drawn to the photographs’ allusive and metaphorical qualities.

Andres images are rooted firmly in the chimerical: it is because of their visual allure that we accept these alternative realms as familiar and even plausible. Her work references both Alfred Hitchcock films and Nancy Drew novels. Her protagonists are static: caught in moments of stopped psychological play. Each scene depicts an unexpected exploration and story of discovery. The girls are on the threshold of personal revelation, at that awkward stage in life when they are no longer children, but not yet fully adults. For Andres, the world is a place where coming of age is an enchanting experience, because behind each locked door and in every cupboard there is a riddle that leads to further mystification, and yet always back to oneself.

“Sparrow Lane” is Holly Andres’ second major body of photographic work. In 2007, her much acclaimed narrative photography series “Stories from a Short Street” exhibited at DNJ Gallery in Los Angeles, and was reviewed by The Los Angeles Times: “She is a film maker too, and the pictures read as carefully orchestrated stills, set pieces hinting at deeper dramas.” Andres has also been showcased in numerous magazines, including Elle Magazine, The Portland Modern and Art Ltd. – who recently profiled her as one of fifteen emerging West Coast Artists under the age of thirty-five. She has collaborated with performer/filmmaker Grace Carter to produce films shown in the 31st Northwest Film & Video Festival, best of the Northwest Touring Program, the Portland International Film Festival, the Portland Experimental Film Festival and the Perpetual Art Machine in New York. Her video work was included in the Oregon Biennial at the Portland Museum of Art and at the Annual National Juried Exhibition at Newspace Center for Photography. She is a professor at Portland State University, and resides in Portland, Oregon.

Please contact the gallery for more information or images.