

**AUGUST 1, 2008**  
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## ***SEDUCTIONS:* Rebecca Murtaugh and Matthew N. Gerhing**

**OPENING: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2008, 7 PM - MIDNIGHT**

1708 Gallery's 2008/2009 Exhibition Season opens on Friday, September 5th with *Seductions*, an exhibition featuring site-specific installations and multi-media work by New York artist couple Rebecca Murtaugh and Matthew N. Gehring. *Seductions* will be on view until October 11, 2008.

Rebecca Murtaugh's work includes a site-specific, mixed-media, 3-D installation *Leisurely Temptation* that will encompass over 50 feet of 1708 Gallery's wall space. Exploring the tactile and sensuous nature of materials, *Leisurely Temptation* visually references a treasure map, while evoking a sense of curiosity and the desire to touch or explore the work further. "My work maintains a balance of formal and conceptual motivations. I aim for the work to be playful, sexy, visually engaging, and a rewarding intellectual experience for those viewers who seek to look further." Murtaugh received her MFA from VCU in 2001.

Matthew Gehring's work includes an interactive piece entitled *From the Bottom of My Heart* featuring a talking mirror. Using ultrasonic sensors, the mirror will issue compliments in a seductive voice, such as "Tell me, how much time does it take to look that good?" Other works by Gehring include *Flamejobs*, a series of painted and air-brushed flames on popular magazine and album covers and a video entitled *Hand Job*. "I believe art is about desire. Both in its manufacture and in its consumption, all art represents some aspect of desire. My intent is that these works provide a seductive visual experience and intellectual engagement through open-ended socio-cultural references that speak directly about desire. My work is an invitation to be visual, to be cognitive, to be curious, to explore, and to enjoy." Gehring received his MFA from the University of Delaware in 2001.

Also on September 5th is the opening for *InLight Richmond*, a juried outdoor light-inspired contemporary art exhibition and event on the 100 - 400 blocks of W. Broad Street organized by 1708 Gallery in honor of it's 30th anniversary.

### **About 1708 Gallery:**

Founded in 1978, 1708 Gallery is a non-profit exhibition space committed to expanding the understanding, development, and appreciation of contemporary art. Through diverse exhibitions and educational programs the Gallery engages the community by providing a forum for dialogue and appreciation for contemporary art. 1708 Gallery is Richmond's leading destination for new art.

For more information and high-resolution images, please call the gallery at 804.643.1708

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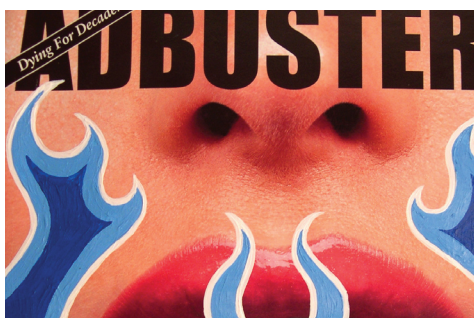
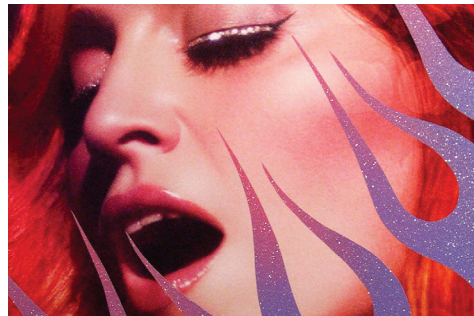


IMAGE CREDITS: From top to bottom:  
Matthew Gerhing, *Flamejob #19*.  
Rebecca Murtaugh, *No Touchy Touchy I*.  
Matthew Gerhing, *Flamejob #2*.  
Rebecca Murtaugh, *All That Sparkles*.