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The Inner on the Outside, The Outside on the In

Wendy Spitzer disassembles and reassembles our past, present and future

DURHAM, North Carolina, April 7, 2010 – Time and memory, death and transfiguration, our private and public selves, surveillance: these are the themes that will confront you in Wendy Spitzer’s imaginative new mixed media and collage exhibit opening in ROOM 100 at Golden Belt on April 16, 2010. With complexity and wit, explorations of reconstituted vintage ephemera invite the beholder to ponder how time distorts our memories of the past, how our personal histories are altered by a society where there is an increased blurring of private and public life, and how much we now reveal of ourselves despite a culture of increased surveillance.

In the age of You Tube, Facebook, and Twitter, the personal elements of identity, once the purview of a person’s private life, are now open for scrutiny. Gone is our modest paranoia of sharing too much information; for our world now is nothing if not information-saturated. What does it mean then to have a personal identity made so public? If our private identities are no longer private and with a public record of these identities going nowhere soon, do our memories become something other than our own?

Coupled with our more relaxed attitude towards sharing personal, private information, our lives are also increasingly monitored and little is spoken of how this affects our newly-weakened sense of privacy. How does surveillance play into the public versus private question? Does the specter of surveillance affect the boundaries people keep between their private and public lives? Fifty years from now, will our era be remembered as the tipping point, when private and public became one? Or will we view this time period as an anomaly, where the average American had to find out the hard way that one’s private life needs to be just that, in order to thrive?

These questions are explored in the series of new works Spitzer has created for this exhibit. An avid collector of vintage ephemera, Spitzer disassembles and reassembles objects of the past,

creating mixed media and collage pieces that give these private, forgotten items a new, public identity. Old yearbooks, letters, photographs, report cards, questionnaires, boxes, road atlases, advertisements, wallpaper samples and more are de-contextualized from their origins, and reconstituted to both reveal their intimate, private details, as well as their re-contextualized, public identity.

You are invited to a place where the individual's private past is chopped apart and is reassembled and experienced in the present to give you a glimpse into our collective, public future. *The Inner on the Outside, The Outside on the In* opens Friday, April 16 and runs through May 16. Opening reception is April 16 in conjunction with Third Friday Durham from 6-9pm in ROOM 100 at Golden Belt, 807 East Main Street, Building 3. Free and open to the public.

About Wendy Spitzer

Wendy Spitzer is a visual artist and musician, Czech-Canadian by birth and North Carolinian by upbringing. She studied music and creative writing, graduating with highest honors and highest distinction from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2002. While in school, she received a National Merit Scholarship, the Benjamin Swalin Scholarship, a Spirit Square Scholarship for the Arts, the Louis D. Rubin Prize and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She received an Emerging Artist grant from the Durham Arts Council in 2008-2009, and her projects have also been funded by the Orange County Arts Commission and the Strowd Roses Foundation. She is the composer and bandleader of her own avant-pop ensemble Felix Obelix (<http://felixobelix.com>), which released its first album in February 2010 on Durham's Pox World Empire record label. She also regularly performs on oboe and conducts the Triangle Soundpainting Orchestra and with Billy Sugarfix's Carousel. This is the first exhibit of her visual art.

About Golden Belt

Former home to the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company, the 155,000 square foot, seven-acre, LEED-Gold certified campus in downtown Durham is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes six architecturally-significant buildings that house thirty-seven live/work residential lofts, thirty-five artist studios, a central gallery, a live music venue, event space, boutique retail stores, restaurants, and office space. This urban arts campus is at the epicenter of the growing arts-related critical mass in Durham's downtown. Since its opening in July 2008, Golden Belt has become a go-to, must-have place for creative pursuits, cultural events and a hip lifestyle in the Triangle. Golden Belt is located at 807 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701.

For more information about Golden Belt, visit www.goldenbeltarts.com or contact Marketing Director Allison Polish by e-mail at allison.polish@scientificproperties.com or by phone at 919-967-7700 x155.