

# KINSEY/DESFORGES

**-IMMEDIATE RELEASE-**

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## **EVAN HECOX: DF (DISTRITO FEDERAL)**

*Los Angeles*— Kinsey/DesForges is pleased to present “DF (Distrito Federal),” a solo exhibition of large-scale woodblock prints, drawings, and paintings from Colorado-based artist and noted designer Evan Hecox. Opening with a reception on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-10pm, and continuing through March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the exhibition marks Hecox’s much-anticipated return since his 2001 show inaugurated the opening of the gallery.

With this new body of work, Hecox uses his stark illustrative style to capture the raw beauty of Mexico City (or “DF”, as the locals call it). This past September, he traveled south with a sense of creative purpose in mind, looking to capture the essence of the enigmatic city with paint and pen and ink. “I chose this subject matter because it is one of the largest and most complex cities in the world,” he says. “It’s a fascinating place. 26 million people all packed into a lush valley surrounded by mountains.”

Through detailed portraits of congested streets and alleyways, vibrant marketplaces, billboards and old automobiles, Hecox taps into the energy and emotion of the urban landscape with the eye of a captivated and careful observer: “The history feels so heavy... this hectic, modern city built on top of Mayan and Aztec ruins. Old, European-style architecture combined with early modernist buildings and new skyscrapers. It’s a city filled with people just trying to get by day-to-day, selling whatever they can on the street—people that are ingenious and adaptive in the ways they manage to survive in a place like this.” In the poignant “El Poder de Hacer,” (*The Power to Do*), a wide sweeping sky lures the viewer in, encouraging a dialog with the street and a visit to the corner market, while a looming skyline of modernity feels significantly claustrophobic in blackened silhouette. One is left to ponder the relationships and marvel at the contrast. A notation in small script in the lower right-hand corner simply recalls, “where bones lie beneath the ground.”

As evidenced in Hecox' previous exhibitions, this show at Kinsey/DesForges embodies the artist's wider holistic vision—the idea that art and its explorative presentation represents an opportunity to create an overall feeling within a conceptually designed space. “With these images of Mexico City, as with most of my work,” Hecox says, “I'm interested in showing the contrasts of a modern urban place: The old mixing with the new, prosperity and poverty, growth and decay, things in a constant state of change.” This makes for an engaging experience and a way to connect, or reconnect in some cases, with a narrative that feels exiting and new, yet oddly familiar.

Evan Hecox has exhibited his paintings, drawings, and prints worldwide, including exhibitions in Los Angeles, London, and Tokyo. His work has been featured in publications including *BLK/MRKT One*, *Juxtapoz Arkitip*, and his artist monograph *Urban Abstract*. Hecox currently lives and works in Denver, Colorado.

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Established in 2001, **Kinsey/DesForges** (formerly BLK/MRKT Gallery) exhibits and promotes a diverse group of new and emerging local, national and international contemporary artists. We are located in Los Angeles in the Culver City Art District. Artists include Tiffany Bozic, Ian Francis, Gregory Euclide, José Parlá, Marion Lane and Dave Kinsey. Hours are Tues – Fri 11-6pm and Sat 12-6pm. [www.KinseyDesForges.com](http://www.KinseyDesForges.com)

For more information, or to schedule a private viewing or interview with the artist, please contact Jana DesForges.