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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**counterpART Gallery presents: *counterpART identities***

**March 24th, 2008 – Lowell, MA** – counterpART Gallery, the first gallery to break through the virtual boundaries of Second Life and materialize in physical space, is pleased to announce that it will celebrate opening its doors to the public at 128 Merrimack Street in Lowell, MA on April 26th, 2008 with its first exhibition *counterpart Identities*. This exhibition features paintings, drawings, video works, and augmented reality mash-ups created specifically for Second Life by local, national and international artists. Each participating artist utilizes this new form of communication to explore concepts of virtual identity, space, open source collaboration, and the building of online communities over the Internet.

Tyngsboro MA based artist Filthy Fluno explores ideas surrounding virtual and celebrity identity, and the possibilities inherent in online community building in his series of pastel and charcoal drawings, titled *The Adventures of Filthy Fluno*. Based on his daily interactions with others within the virtual world of Second Life, Fluno's works abstractly depict characters and events that tell a tale about the human condition and how the Internet and online communities can reshape the way we communicate with each other while allow artists to share their creative views and visions in a democratic nonhierarchical way.

Influenced by the experimental dance and choreography of Merce Cunningham, the chance operations of John Cage, and the colorful, conceptual spectacle of Matthew Barney, Dancoyote Antonellis' *ZeroG SkyDancers*, are a new form of networked ensemble performers. They examine a particular quality of networked performance, while employing a variety of non-narrative and narrative approaches to the traditional medium of dance within Second Life. The *ZeroG SkyDancers* re-examine the idea of 'the stage' as they fly around "dancing" while triggering audio samples in order to create performances within an ever changing reactive stage that are a cross between water ballet and aerial acrobatics. The *ZeroG SkyDancers* will perform live through streaming audio and video technology on April 26th

*In Hiding, An Exposure Feared, and Irrversible*, St.Louis MO based painter Esch Snoats explores notions of self-introspection, passivity, ideas, and actions that transcend reality and are more noticeable in a virtual world in which no one knows your true identity. Through his vivid use of color, abstract symbols, and undulating shapes and lines, Snoats creates strikingly beautiful self-introspective worlds that feel primal and volatile.

Also included in the show are video and audio works by Komuso Tokugawa, Cezary Fish, Holly Hax, Juria Yoshikawa, Spider Mycron, Shoshana Epsilon, and paintings by Calvin Thomas, Gillian Frazier, and Emile Cryotank among others.

## **Calendar Submission/At a Glance**

**What///** counterpART identities

**Who///** Filthy Fluno, Dancoyote Antonelli's ZeroG SkyDancers, Esch Snoats Live music performances on April 26 include: Billboard Magazine's featured indie musician, Grace Buford, will be performing live folk music alongside her avatar Cylindrian Rutabaga. A live online collaborative blues jam with Komuso Tokugawa and Hathead Rickenbacker will be streamed into the gallery via Second Life.

**When///** April 2 – 30

**Opening:** Saturday, April 26, 2008, (7:30 - 11 pm)

**Where///** counterPart Gallery 128 Merrimack Street, Lowell MA

**Hours///** Tues- Thurs 11 - 2 pm. Friday 4 - 8 pm, Sat 2 - 9 pm and by appointment

**Information///**For more information, please call 781-541-0470 or visit [www.counterpartgallery.com](http://www.counterpartgallery.com)

**Press please note///** counterPART Gallery also plans a series of workshops that will teach artists how to participate in the virtual online community of Second Life in order to help them connect with artists and arts enthusiasts from around the globe.