

MERRY KARNOWSKY GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION TITLE: **TINO RODRIGUEZ & VIRGO PARAISO:
LULLABIES FOR THE DARK AGES**

EXHIBITION DATES: **JUNE 14 – JULY 5, 2008**

OPENING RECEPTION: **SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 8 – 11pm**

CONTACT PERSON: **MERRY KARNOWSKY**

GALLERY: **MERRY KARNOWSKY GALLERY
170 SOUTH LA BREA AVENUE
(IN THE ART 170 BUILDING)
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036
PHONE: 323-933-4408
WEB: <http://www.mkgallery.com/>
EMAIL: mkgallery@mindspring.com**

TINO RODRIGUEZ & VIRGO PARAISO: LULLABIES FOR THE DARK AGES

“ Let the beauty we love be what we do... Don't go back to sleep.”
(Rumi 13th century)

Merry Karnowsky Gallery is proud to present *LULLABIES FOR THE DARK AGES*, featuring the paintings of San Francisco-based Mexican-American artists Tino Rodriguez and Virgo Paraiso.

Defying simple classification, the work of Tino Rodriguez exists in a liminal space, embracing an ambiguity that expands perspective. The confounding of gender within reminiscently religious surroundings creates disorientation. Yet, this disorientation is akin to a waking dream, allowing for the possibility to experience the images of fantasy. Rodriguez's paintings manifest the artist's search for a spiritual philosophy that transcends simple duality. The restrictive dualities of Western religions—good and evil, heaven and hell, spirit and body—intermingle in a vision that deconstructs such ordering. Rodriguez represents human exuberance and decadence in his exploration of the complexity of human sexuality, transformation, longing and transgression. With the total abandonment of rationality, he creates a syncretic universe in which all is integrated, whether it be good or evil. Rodriguez was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico, and holds an MFA from the University of Albuquerque. His work has shown in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, New Mexico and Montana.

Paradise, metamorphoses and hybridism appear in the worlds of Virgo Paraiso's paintings. The scenes focus on the connection between nature and human kind as the inhabitants transform into nature itself. Such metamorphosis awakens sensation, heightening spirituality to enlightenment. The depiction of ancient cross-cultural concepts allows the viewer to experience the distant worlds of ancient Mesoamerica. These visions evoke exotic and ancient cultures, brilliant fairytales, fantastic dreamscapes, and Eden-like bliss. Paraiso's paintings allow for an experience of worlds where beauty, man and nature collide in an evocative and thrilling embrace. Paraiso was born and raised in Mexico, and holds a BFA from Academy of Art College in San Francisco. His work has shown in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, Honolulu, Boston and Japan.

For More Information please contact Merry Karnowsky at mkgallery@mindspring.com, 323.933.4408