

Delicate and Dangerous: The Visual Play of Riva Sweetrocket

By Lisa Trank

Riva Sweetrocket is an artist who delights in polarities. Her work contains a beautiful, fantastic element that is at once dangerous and life affirming. Sweetrocket's new works will be on display in an exhibition called *Delicate, Dangerous* at the Andrew J. Macky Gallery, sponsored by IZZE Beverage Company and Many Mountains Moving literary journal.

The exhibit features large-scale chalk pastel drawings on paper, juxtaposing symbols of the physical and the spiritual. Sweetrocket describes the new work: "The physical world can be so fragile, so fleeting, so tenuous. The spiritual side more enduring, powerful, boundless. My work focuses on these two elements and our suspension between them."

Sweetrocket describes pastels as the perfect medium for the play between the visually tactile and the fragile. The artist explains her attraction to the medium as "the relentless sense that by my own blundering I could easily total something I've worked on for hours. We want to hang on to beauty but there's nothing to grasp. It's always passing away, making room for the next beautiful thing."

Sweetrocket's artistic process is "one of unfolding. I begin a piece with a rough plan or thumbnail sketch but inevitably the work takes on a life of its own and evolves considerably while I'm drawing. Generally I work as large as my materials will allow. This gives me

several options with the completed piece. I may leave a drawing in its entirety, or crop it to change the composition and capture a particular element. My work is about the infinite and the limited, existing together." Riva Sweetrocket's credits include the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, the R.L. Foster Gallery in Denver, Core New Artspace and others.

Delicate, Dangerous will have an artist's reception on Thursday, October 23 from 7-9pm that is open to the public. The Andrew J. Macky Gallery is located in Macky Auditorium on the CU-Boulder campus at the corner of 17th Street and University Avenue in Boulder. For more information contact Macky Auditorium at 303/492-8423 or visit colorado.edu/macky. For more about Riva Sweetrocket, visit www.sweetrocket.com.



"Delicate, Dangerous", Riva Sweetrocket



"Virgin Heat", Riva Sweetrocket