LUISE ROSS
GALLERY

For Immediate Release

# Thomas Burleson

*Lone Star*

Luise Ross Gallery will present the first major exhibition of works on paper by Thomas Burleson (1914-1997), a self-taught artist from Texas who produced a substantial body of brilliantly colored works during a thirty-year period. Much of the work was done while the artist was employed as a shipping inspector at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in California, and during retirement. A cross-section of the entire oeuvre will be presented.

After making numerous machine-like pencil drawings on small pieces of paper during the late 1960s, Burleson's work in the 1970's became taught, brilliantly colored, and intuitively composed. His paintings are mechanistic, architectural, and figural, but defy categorization as the artist blends subjects and perspectives into singular representations. Underlying the art is the multifaceted insertion of his persona into numerous situations and compositions, where the human form, visionary architecture, and mechanistic imagery are integrated. Toward the end of the artist's life the work became more whimsical and the compositions freer as Burleson continued to experiment in his approach. Most intriguing is the fact that over thirty years the artist produced no two works alike. However, numerous themes appear throughout the work, including a fortress-like construction, a fondness of dogs and chickens, and a central figure entrapped by ambiguously sinister surroundings.

The artist's work is included in the Neuve Invention section of the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne, Switzerland, founded by Jean Dubuffet.

A 28-page color catalog with an essay by Edward M. Gómez accompanies this exhibition.

**Title:** **Thomas Burleson**
*Lone Star*

**Dates:** **9 January - 24 February 2007**

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