

For Immediate Release
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**GRAFFITI ROOTS OF SAN FRANCISCO ARTIST, SAM FLORES,
TO AUCTION AN ORIGINAL PAINTING TO BENEFIT NEXTAID
AT SLIDE INTO MIAMI ON MARCH 22, 2007**

MIAMI, FL – March 8, 2007: The West Coast’s underground art community has followed the graffiti inspired handiwork of San Francisco based artist, Sam Flores, since 1991. Almost 15 years later, Flores growing popularity is evident from Middle American skate parks to galleries in major cities across the globe. On March 22, 2007 Budious Gallery (Miami) will host Sam Flores’ anticipated solo show, “Water Under the Bridge”. Flores’ broad fan base highlights the undeniable inclusion of mainstream audiences to this street-credible art form.

With contemporaries including Shepard Fairey (OBEY), Mike Giant and David Choe, Sam Flores’ low-brow artistic quality speaks to a generation of artists and art lovers who look beyond the constraints of the traditional gallery experience & the categorization of fine art vs. street art. Flores’ vision is an amalgamation of classic fine art, Japanese Anime, Art Nouveau and the colorful, imaginative illustration of children’s picture books.

Art & culture publications such as Juxtapoz & Mass Appeal routinely feature his paintings & illustrations, allowing his audience to follow the progression of his work. In June 2006, the Lineage Gallery (Philadelphia, PA) hosted Flores’ solo show “Cities of Lament”. He is acknowledged within America’s urban subculture as the signature artist of Upper Playground & recognized for his own 12 Grain clothing line. And this summer, Flores’ limited-edition Fatima & Tiger baby dolls became fodder for a lucky few collectors of vinyl toys popularized in Asia.

Flores’ signature style is recognizable by his use of hard outlines & broad-brush strokes, characteristic of the graphic graffiti & Japanese Anime styles. Juxtaposed against a soft color palette and the flowing line inherent of Art Nouveau, the unexpected mix of two very different techniques is nothing short of spellbinding. Often enveloped in lush Asian inspired landscapes, Sam’s signature female Fatima figures are draped in flowing gowns with oversized welcoming hands gracefully placed upon their lap. Childlike characters adorned in animal masks and intricate, flowing floral bouquets are a nod to the work of his greatest influences: American painter Michael Parkes & Maurice Sendak, creator of the classic children’s storybook: “Where the Wild Things Are”. Other influences include 19th Century, Art Nouveau icon Alphonse Mucha & American poster artist Derek Hess.

For the March show, Flores interprets the theme: “Slide Into Miami”. The enthralling and joyous quality of the electronic music experience and the desire to let go of that which inhibits us from experiencing pleasure are explored. Flores’ voice speaks of innocence and beauty, however melancholy. His vision is to be appreciated within the often-chaotic urban settings where his work finds its’ broadest audience.

His original painting will be auctioned on Ebay to benefit NextAid, an LA-based humanitarian organization rooted in the dance music community, dedicated to creating sustainable solutions for African children orphaned as a result of Aids.

SLIDE INTO MIAMI
www.slideintomiami.com