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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHAEL SARICH AT STREMMEL GALLERY

Exhibition dates: Dec. 8 – Dec. 31, 2011
Reception: Thursday, Dec. 8, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Open to the public.

Stremmel Gallery is pleased to present *Michael Sarich*, recent painting and sculpture. The exhibition opens with a reception for the artist on Thursday, December 8 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and will remain on view until December 31.

For over three decades Reno-based artist Michael Sarich has inspired viewers, students and colleagues through his steadfast and passionate career dedicated to the investigation of mark-making. Influenced by outsider art, graffiti and tattoo flash, the raw nature of Sarich's canvases, ceramics and mixed media constructions represents a complex relationship between personal and universal imagery. Swarming with recognizable symbols and popular references, Sarich's visual narratives depict intricately woven allegories, highly unique, yet familiar in nature. Symbols such as La Virgen de Guadalupe, Mickey Mouse, and the Walmart smiley face collide with images of propellers, fish, birds and skulls. The configuration of prevalent imagery in a highly globalized and aggressively commercialized world alongside renderings of personal interests like fishing, family tokens, and bodily deterioration elicit multiple interpretations. "The viewer brings their own sensibilities and takes what they get from it," says Sarich. Through story telling and co-opting pop culture iconography, Sarich takes viewers down a tenuous path, a labyrinth of personal narratives that examine real life, fantasy, loneliness, comedy, desire and pain.

Sarich studied printmaking and drawing at the College of Salzburg in Austria, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in printmaking at Northern Illinois University and a Master of Fine Arts in drawing, painting, and sculpture at the University of Oklahoma. Since 1989, he has been an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Nevada, Reno. His works in printmaking, painting, ceramics, and sculpture have been included in many national and international exhibitions, including a large solo show in Maine in 2005 and a group exhibition in Belgium in 2004. In December 2007, Sarich was awarded a grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation and in January 2008, a mid-career traveling retrospective exhibition and catalogue of his paintings, drawings, prints and ceramic sculptures by the Nevada Museum of Art.

To set up a private tour of the gallery and works by Michael Sarich, please contact Stremmel Gallery at 786-0558 or visit www.stremmelgallery.com. Stremmel Gallery is located at 1400 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm.

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