



**-IMMEDIATE RELEASE-**

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**AUTONOMOUS PATHS: JOSÉ PARLÁ**

BLK/MRKT is proud to welcome New York artist José Parlá for his Los Angeles solo debut, June 4<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005

Los Angeles, April 2005—“Autonomous Paths” marks not only Parlá’s first solo exhibition in Los Angeles, but also the first West Coast showing of his epic masterpiece, “**Canal Street - Conversations With Rotella**”, recently on view at the Chelsea Art Museum in New York. The exhibition will open with an artist’s reception on the evening of June 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-10pm.

José Parlá’s paintings are immediately powerful with a swaying rhythm and an unruly soulfulness that embraces rather than overwhelms; at once balanced and complex, both mysterious and deeply lyrical, abstract and intensely literal. His images occupy vast spaces filled with windswept clouds, commercial poster fragments, and remembered architecture while stylized calligraphic writings introduce grace and tension as a distinctly human gesture. The compositions are often mounted or executed directly on wood panel, and the solidity of this foundation gives warmth and mass to the paintings, upholding the illusion of the spaces they describe. He works on a large scale using materials and methods of architectural construction—cement, wood and vinyl—as well as traditional art incorporating paper, paint, powdered dye, wax, and ink. Parlá’s expert, passionate brushwork and subtly shifting palettes resolve themselves into walls, tags, skies and sidewalks, as seen through the veils of time and memory. When discussing the work he often uses terms like synthetic and segmented, referring to the world’s cities as virtual palimpsests, upon which are recorded in literal,

figurative and ongoing layering process the personal histories of countless anonymous passersby. Parlá, who has already achieved notoriety, using the moniker Ease, with seminal art collectives like the Inkheads and Barnstormers, retreats to his studio to digest and reinterpret what he absorbs of this intricate miasma, bringing forth paintings infused with memory and experience.

Though still quite young, the conceptual passions that would become the foundation of Parlá's voice as an artist have been on his mind since he was a child. Born in Miami into a family of Cuban exiles, Parlá moved to Puerto Rico at an early age before returning to Miami when he was nine. He currently lives and works in New York, and only recently traveled to Cuba for the first time. His life, like his work, is therefore at once extremely particular and generally reflective of the wanderings of today's urban populations. Moving was never a simple question of packing his bags. Instead, he augmented his aesthetic observations with an analytical, almost sociological perspective on the cities in which he lingered and through which he walked and continues to walk.

Parlá was awarded the Francis McCommon Scholarship to the Savannah College of Art & Design, Georgia in 1989 and has exhibited locally and internationally from Miami to Paris and Tokyo. His work is featured in the collections of Agnes B., Tom Ford, Katy Barker, and has been published in various publications such as *Tokion*, *Refill*, Booth Clibborn's *718 Brooklyn Style*, *Writing* (Die-Gestalten) and most recently the current issue of *La Rampa*.

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BLK/MRKT Gallery, located in the heart of the Culver City arts district, was established in Los Angeles in 2001, with an emphasis on urban contemporary art, and has become a premier destination for established and emerging artists and enthusiasts alike. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11-6pm 310 837 1989  
www. [blkmrktgallery.com](http://blkmrktgallery.com)