



619 Grand Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
651-312-1122

**December 15, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Grand Hand Gallery is pleased to announce

## ***Animal Dreams*** **Adu Gindy - painting • Aaron Sober - clay**

The Grand Hand brings color and warmth to winter with work from artists who incorporate animals into their imagery. *Animal Dreams* features lively canvases from Minneapolis painter Adu Gindy and decorated pottery from Maine's Aaron Sober.

**January 16 – March 7, 2010**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, January 16; 5-8 PM**

*Join us for wine, hors d'oeuvres, great conversation, and great art.*



**About Adu Gindy:** When The Grand Hand partnered with its neighbor, River Gallery, in 2008 we were delighted to find a trove of animated canvases, alive with color, many populated with intriguing animal forms. These captivating works by painter Adu Gindy evidence the presence of the woman who created them, an artist who reacts thoughtfully to her experience of life's passages. Born in Estonia, Adu spent her early childhood in German displaced person camps

during and after World War II. Eventually, she relocated to a Connecticut farm and formed a kinship with the animals there. "As a child," she states, "I saw adults doing undignified, terrible things to each other. On the other hand I saw animals as regal creatures whose behavior was pure and void of vengeful acts. I guess it was inevitable that I would use creatures as my resource and source of inspiration when it came time to

tell my stories and paint my paintings.” In the 1980s, Adu moved to Duluth where she was an energetic supporter of artists, galleries and institutions in the northern port. In Minnesota, she continued her formal study, earning an MFA at the University of Minnesota in 1989 then teaching at the School of Fine Art at the University of Minnesota Duluth until 2005. Adu is now a full-time painter based in Minneapolis. About her process, the artist states, “Spontaneous gesture plays an important role in the initial stages of many of my works. I like the idea of coaxing a figure or its quasi-facsimile from the interplay of marks, lines, shapes and colors – grasping it as it emerges from some general abstraction. Painting in this manner keeps me in touch with my own innocent eye and my inner self.”



**About Aaron Sober:** This ceramic artist marries traditional pottery forms and brushwork to create edgy, modern clay pieces intended for use. The decoration and warm glazes of his salt-fired work tempt both the eye and the hand.

Aaron earned a BA in ceramics from Macalester College in St. Paul then worked as a production potter and clay instructor while exploring his own studio work. He was a fellow at the Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis and at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina and has participated in national craft fairs including the Uptown Art Fair in Minneapolis, the American Craft Council show in St. Paul, Art Fair on the Square in Madison, WI and Crafts at Lincoln Center in New York City. Aaron recently moved his studio from Minnesota to mid-coast Maine and is currently experimenting with the way his familiar glazing materials behave in a new climate.

The artist states, “Like a pair of work boots, my pots are made to be durable and masculine, but also not without grace. As I strive to infuse functional forms with these qualities, some level of humor is communicated in their surface decoration: strange animals and thorny plants abound, bucktooth rabbits sit on the sides of teapots, complex

designs wrap around jars. By working with images from nature that are sometimes disconcerting, amusing, or even peaceful, my pottery communicates something of both the beauty, patterns, and truth of the natural world.

Like all crafters, the process of making work is one that continues to satisfy, humble, and challenge. This relationship to a material undeniably shows through in every piece. As I go through a production cycle, I attempt to handle the clay in a direct, confident, and unfussed manner. In doing so, it is my hope that the work has a strong and uncomplicated presence.”

### **About The Grand Hand Gallery**

The Grand Hand Gallery was opened in August, 2004 by owner Ann Ruhr Pifer as the Twin Cities premier gallery of fine American craft. The artwork featured in the gallery reflects her particular affinity for work that conveys a strong sense of authenticity – that shows “the hand of the artist” at work; the processes used to create each piece; and frequently the influence of the particular time or place in which the artist was working. The gallery carries the work of artists and craftspeople from across the country, with a particular emphasis on those from the Upper Midwest. Approximately eight times per year, the gallery highlights the work of two or more artists in a special exhibition. The Grand Hand, which also offers home and office consultations and framing services, has recently been featured in *Minnesota Monthly*, *Minneapolis / St. Paul Magazine*, *Midwest Home*, *American Craft*, *The Crafts Report*, and *St. Paul Illustrated*, and was named “**Best New Gallery**” in 2007 and a “**Top Retailer**” of American craft in 2007 and 2008 by *NICHE* magazine.

**Hours:**            Tuesday-Friday: 10 AM - 7 PM  
                             Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM  
                             Sunday: noon-5 PM  
                             Closed Monday

### **Contact Info:**

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**HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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