

Butters Gallery, Ltd.  
520 NW Davis St.  
Portland, OR 97209

June 22, 2011

Press release for Dorothy Goode's in-studio event:  
Friday, July 8, 2011

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Butters Gallery, Ltd. Presents:



Special Studio Event:

### *Pretty Mess with Words* by Dorothy Goode

5-11pm, Friday, July 8, 2011. Portland Storage Building, 8th Floor, 215 SE Morrison Street (under the Morrison Bridge, across from Montage restaurant/bar). Street parking. Assistants will be on hand in 10-minute shifts to assist with entry to this locked facility and transport via freight elevator to Goode's studio. For assistance, call 503.780.6102.

Butters Gallery is pleased to host a VIP reception in the studio of longtime Butters artist Dorothy Goode to celebrate the completion of her latest series, *Pretty Mess with Words*. The series consists of more than 100 small panels (10"x7.5") presented in a soaring, grid-based installation. The works embody Goode's most recent inquiry into the relationship between autobiography, text, and gesture. During a period of intense personal transition last year, Goode scrawled graphite confessions on wood panels, then overlaid her signature rhythmic gestures in highly saturated egg-tempera paint. The degree to which she covered up, let stand, or excavated the text—and thereby betrayed or obfuscated the autobiographical narratives underlying the paint—became a piece-by-piece litmus test of her willingness to share with or hide from the viewer the churning undercurrents of her psyche. This is the conundrum of any artist in any medium, from Caravaggio to Kerouac: to lay bare or conceal the psychological underpinnings of the work. Conceptually, the crux of *Pretty Mess with Words*—superimposing gesture over text—inverts the more traditional approach—superimposing text over gesture or imagery—as practiced by historical and contemporary painters such as Stuart Davis, Jasper Johns, Cy Twombly, and Richard Prince. Formally, the works resemble a dynamic cross-pollination of 1940s/50s Abstract Expressionism and 1980s graffiti art. Emotionally, they are perhaps the most honest and revealing paintings of Goode's career to date.

A sampling of the pieces, along with Goode's artist statement, may be viewed at:

[www.dorothygoode.com](http://www.dorothygoode.com)

Light hors d'oeuvres, wine, and cocktails will be served at the event. The paintings, equally sumptuous as solo works or dialogic groupings of two or more, will be available for purchase for \$400 apiece. Selected works from previous series will also be on view. For more information, please call 503.248.9378. Dorothy Goode and the Butters family look forward to welcoming you to this exciting, one-night-only event.