



Rice University Art Gallery has invited Brooklyn-based artist **Steve Keene** to make, display, and sell hundreds of paintings throughout the duration of Texas Contemporary Art Fair, October 20 – 23, 2011.

Since 1990, Steve Keene has perfected his assembly-line, performance-based style. Keene lines up 30 to 40 plywood boards at a time on an easel. He chooses an image from magazines, art reproductions and other sources, and then duplicates it across all of the canvases until he has created nearly identical scenes. To each work, Keene adds a phrase, a line randomly selected from such sources as Bartlett's book of quotations, songs, or poems.

In 1998, Steve Keene did a month-long painting marathon when he created *Fresh Art Daily* for Rice University Art Gallery, prompting Rice Gallery director, Kim Davenport to invite Keene back to Houston for the Texas Contemporary Art Fair.

Keene's populist spirit allows any visitor to the fair to walk away with a painting for a mere \$5. As he says, "I want buying my paintings to be like buying a CD: it's cheap, it's art and it changes your life, but the object has no status. Musicians create something for the moment, something with no boundaries and that kind of expansiveness is what I want to come across in my work." To date, Keene estimates he's sold over 250,000 paintings.

Visit ricegallery.org and stevekeene.com for more information.