

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Icebox Gallery** presents: **Beneath the Surface** new large color photographs by Minnesota photographer **Rhea Pappas**.

Rhea Pappas gently submerges the viewer Beneath the Surface into a quiet world that seems beautifully alien and dream like. Her female models float gracefully without any resistance, others appear engulfed in bubbles as if they fell into a dream by surprise. Rhea photographs underwater in the clean clear water of a swimming pool. Her models look through the water with open eyes and are captured in poses resembling sculptures or angels.

The water creates its own lens collecting and randomized twists and changes in shape proportion in a placid surrealistic way. The clear water frames a figure bathed in white light that mutes colors often creating a pallet of illuminated pastels. Bubbles and flowing cloth are the only visual barrier in an otherwise sharply focused view.

Rhea Pappas has found a world that she feels safe and comfortable in. A world that is only a plunge away, a beautiful stage where muses return to the womb in a dance of autonomy and purity protected from the world of gravity and chaos above.

In December 2008 Rhea Pappas, at 22, graduated from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. While in school she received many awards including the Scholastics Portfolio Scholarship and Advertising Photographers of America best of students first place. While in college she also started assistant teaching at a local high school, community ed programs, and Independent Film Projects.

Just out of college, she has shown in NYC, Vermont, France, and Internationally. In 2009 she won numerous international awards for her new underwater series at Prix De La Paris and the International Photography Awards.

Icebox Gallery is pleased to begin our 23<sup>rd</sup> season featuring new photographic work by this promising young photographer. Rhea's fresh dynamic photographs emit energy and emotion. Rhea Pappas has the kind of talent that we enjoy and want to promote at Icebox Gallery and she happens to be 23 years old.

**Prints:** Several 30 x 40 inch prints, some smaller. Media: Digital archival inkjet.

**Art-A-Whirl Hours:** Friday May 14, 10 AM – 10 PM, Saturday May 15, 12 – 8, Opening 8 – Midnight, Sunday, May 16, 12 – 5. **Regular Hours:** Tues – Friday 10 - 6, Saturday 12 – 5, Closed Sunday & Monday. Show Continues through July 31, 2010

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