

For Immediate Release:  
February 8th, 2016  
Los Angeles

COREY HELFORD GALLERY

# BELOW THE SURFACE



*OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, FROM 7-11PM  
ON VIEW FEBRUARY 20 – MARCH 19, 2016*

ADAM MILLER \* ADRIAN COX \* BENJAMIN GARCIA \* BETH CAVENER \* CARLO CANE \* CHLOE EARLY  
HANNAH YATA \* HIKARI SHIMODA \* HIRABAYASHI TAKAHIRO \* KATE ZAMBRANO \*  
KATHERINE MELANCON \* LAUREN MARX \* LU CONG \* LUKE CHUEH \* MARIO SORIA \* MIKAEL TAKACS  
\* NATHAN JAMES \* NATALIE SHAU \* NAOTO HATTORI \* NICOLE BRUCKMAN \* R. LEVEILLE  
REDD WALITZKI \* SARAH DOLBY \* SONYA FU \* STEPHANIE INAGAKI \* TOM BAGSHAW  
YASUYO FUJIBE \* YOSUKE UENO \* YUSK IMAI

On **Saturday, February 20th, 2016**, Corey Helford Gallery in Los Angeles presents “**Below the Surface**”, a **new group exhibition curated by Caro**, exploring the power of art’s deeper meaning to entice and fascinate us.

There is more than meets the eye to every great work of art. Throughout history, artists have portrayed subjects that are alluring, beautiful, even cute, at first glance - the enigmatic smile of DaVinci’s Mona Lisa, Van Gogh’s mysterious starry night skies, and Takashi Murakami’s happy sunflowers, all share a deeper, if not darker, meaning below their surface. Hidden symbols and meanings are used to either captivate the viewer’s thoughts, or draw out the artist’s intended emotion. “Below the Surface” features 30 International contemporary artists who follow in this tradition of non-representational art to create a more interesting larger image. In other words, a common thread in their works is what lies below the surface of each.

(more)

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Swedish artist Mikael Takacs is one such artist whose mesmerizing paintings depict secret images, faces distorted underneath beautiful marbling effects. His acrylic on canvas titled "She Stole" portrays a slave woman marked with a fleur-de-lis, or a stylized lily, used as a decorative design or symbol for hundreds of years. In Mauritius, slaves were branded with a fleur-de-lis, when being punished for escaping or stealing food, here warped by the artist's abstract expression of marbling.

Nagano, Japan based artist Hikari Shimoda also relies on detail and decoration to tell the story behind her images of cheerfully colored, starry-eyed characters. Her "Whereabouts of God" series depicts young children wearing a sort of "Chernobyl necklace", in reference to the 1986 nuclear disaster in Chernobyl that she compares to the recent Fukushima disaster. "I painted these scars as warnings about the future, while the twinkling stars around the scar represent my personal, happier wishes for our future," she explains.

The roles of characters carry a variety of meaning in works by other artists like Brazil based Yusk Imai. Imai's monochromatic visual collages of people and animals address the idea of an uncontrollable world around us. His mixed media piece titled "Take Control" presents a dynamic image of a man and a bull struggling as they are meshed together. "The idea is that the final result never comes; in my opinion, we are never the beast or the man entirely," he says. "Below the surface, we are forever stuck in this struggle, mixed state."

The opening reception for "Below the Surface" will be hosted Saturday, February 20th, 2016, from 7-11pm at Corey Helford's Gallery 2. The reception is open to the public, and the exhibition is on view through March 19th, 2016.

### ABOUT THE CURATOR

Curating this exhibition is Caro Buermann, an independent artists' agent and curator specializing in Japanese contemporary art who has become an institution in the LA New Contemporary art scene with her recurring articles for the well-known art publication Hi-Fructose Magazine. Following her successful curatorial debut "Dreamlands" for Corey Helford in 2015, Caro joined the gallery as its Special Projects Curator, where she continues to curate monthly group exhibitions and solo offerings from exciting, emerging talents. For more information about Caro and her work with artists, please visit [www.sweetstreetsla.com](http://www.sweetstreetsla.com).

### COREY HELFORD GALLERY

Corey Helford Gallery was established in 2006 by Jan Corey Helford and her husband, television producer and creator, Bruce Helford (Anger Management, The Drew Carey Show, George Lopez, The Oblongs). Corey Helford Gallery represents a diverse collection of Contemporary artists influenced by today's pop culture, encompassing the genres of New Figurative, Popsurrealism, Graffiti and Street Art. Artists include Josh Agle (Shag), Ron English, D\*Face, Camille Rose Garcia, Chloe Early, Eine, Natalia Fabia, Hush, Liz McGrath, Richard J. Oliver, Herakut, Kukula, Sylvia Ji, Eric Joyner, Brandi Milne, Korin Faight, Mary Jane Ansell, Martin Wittfooth, Lori Nelson, Hannah Yata, Camilla d'Errico, Hikari Shimoda and more. Renowned for its notable exhibitions, the gallery has presented "Charity By Numbers," which was co-curated by Gary Baseman and featured an unprecedented lineup of artists including Mark Ryden, Marion Peck, Shepard Fairey, Todd and Kathy Schorr, Camille Rose Garcia, and Michael Hussar, as well as "La Noche de la Fusion," an epic Carnavalesque festival and solo exhibition for Pervasive artist Gary Baseman. In 2010, Corey Helford Gallery partnered with Bristol's City Museum & Art Gallery for the transatlantic collaboration "Art From The New World," a world-class United Kingdom museum exhibition showcasing work by a formidable group of 49 of the finest emerg-

# COREY HELFORD GALLERY

Corey Helford Gallery presents new exhibitions approximately every four weeks. For more information and an upcoming exhibition schedule, please visit [coreyhelfordgallery.com](http://coreyhelfordgallery.com).

## **Corey Helford Gallery Los Angeles**

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Los Angeles, CA 90033

Tel. 310.287.2340

Open Tuesday-Saturday, Noon to 6pm

[coreyhelfordgallery.com](http://coreyhelfordgallery.com)

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