

For Immediate Release  
October 2, 2014  
Los Angeles, CA

CHG CIRCA

# LUKE CHUEH

## “Self-ish”



OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, FROM 7-10PM  
ON VIEW OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 8, 2014

Culver City (October 2, 2014): On **Saturday, October 11, 2014**, CHG Circa presents **Luke Chueh's new exhibition, “Self-ish”**, with 20 new pieces, including new works on paper.

As a noted cute-surrealist painter, Luke Chueh's own contrary impulses are personified in his work as cuddly animals that evoke comforting memories of childhood. Yet, these sweet-faced bears, bunnies, and monkeys are brutally forced into suffering the effects of the proverbial human condition. Murphy's Law rules the world where Chueh's wry, introspective characters live. Consequently, sex, murder, mutilation, and cause for vegetarianism abound. However macabre, we find ourselves in the subtle irony of his paintings among the simple color fields and textured line. Many times his blood red backgrounds serve as warnings that all is not what it seems or alternatively as an emotional guide to the levels of our subconscious purgatory. “Self-ish” marks the last two “You Are What You Eat” paintings in Chueh's 10-year, career-defining Bear series, as well as introduces new experimental works on paper.

“My work is an illustrative exploration of visual and narrative contrasts,” explains Chueh. “Drawing inspiration from comics and cartoons, my “cute/innocent” characters are juxtaposed into a world filled with addiction, illness, misery, and loss.”

The opening reception for Luke Chueh will be hosted Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 7-10pm at CHG Circa. The reception is open to the public, and the exhibition is on view through November 1, 2014.

### **Luke Chueh**

Born in Philadelphia, but raised in Fresno, Luke Chueh (pronounced CHU) studied graphic design at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo where he earned a BS in Art & Design (Graphic Design concentration). He was employed by the Ernie Ball Company, working in-house as designer/illustrator where he created several award winning designs, featured in Communication Arts and Print Magazine. Meanwhile, he also created, produced, wrote, designed, edited and published "E.X.P.", a 'zine dedicated to the "Intelligent Dance Music (IDM)" genre.

In 2003, Chueh moved to Los Angeles to further pursue a career in design. However, a lack of employment opportunities left him resorting to painting as a way to keep busy (a hobby he picked up while attending Cal Poly). He got his start when the Los Angeles underground art show, Cannibal Flower, invited him to show at their monthly events. Since then Chueh has quickly worked his way up the ranks of the LA art scene, establishing himself as an artist not to be ignored. Employing minimal color schemes, simple animal characters, and a seemingly endless list of ill-fated situations, Chueh stylistically balances cute with brute, walking the fine line between comedy and tragedy. Chueh's work has been featured in galleries around the world, and some of his paintings have also been reinterpreted into vinyl toys.

### **CHG Circa**

Established in 2012 by Los Angeles gallerists Jan Corey Helford and Bruce Helford, CHG Circa is their exciting new art venue on Washington Blvd. After launching the highly-successful Corey Helford Gallery in 2006 in the Culver City Arts District, the Helfords opened CHG Circa as a platform to highlight figurative and pop surreal artists worldwide, including Lola, Van Arno, Sylvia Ji, Amy Sol and many more. Corey Helford Gallery is internationally-renowned for its standout exhibitions, from "Letters From America" during the 2012 London Olympics to "Art From The New World," Corey Helford's transatlantic collaboration with the Bristol's City Museum & Art Gallery showcasing work by a formidable group of 49 of the finest emerging and noted American artists in the New Contemporary art scene. CHG Circa presents exhibitions and special projects of equal quality and caliber. "We believe the artists we show and support are creating timeless art," the Helfords add, and to celebrate this, CHG Circa has an elegant 1930s' ambiance, stamped tin ceilings and 10 foot archways. CHG Circa presents new exhibitions every 4-5 weeks. For more information and an upcoming exhibition schedule, please visit [coreyhelfordgallery.com](http://coreyhelfordgallery.com)

#### CHG CIRCA

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

Open Tuesday - Saturday, Noon to 6:00pm

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