

For Immediate Release
April 1, 2014
Los Angeles, CA

CHG CIRCA

RAY CAESAR

“A TAINTED VIRTUE”



OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, APRIL 19, FROM 7-10PM
ON VIEW APRIL 19 - MAY 10, 2014

Culver City (April 1, 2014): On Saturday, April 19, 2014, CHG Circa presents Ray Caesar's *A Tainted Virtue*, including 5 new pieces that will show for the first time in North America.

The ethereal feminine figures that feature prominently in Caesar's work are actually drawn from seeds of memory. Whether these experiences are wonderful or foul, Caesar develops his subjects into beautiful remnant spirits that appear quickly like a sweet sensation on the tongue, yet slightly sour in its aftertaste. Layers of color and light envelop these tangible icons of the artist's Id, keeping them just out of the audience's reach. This piece of land that Caesar's imagination inhabits, whether it's a fairy-tale like forest or seemingly hidden room in a far off estate, borders the fine line between dream and nightmare, where the danger and intrigue is in the detail. "A tainted virtue is just a few words that describe the nature of me and my work," explains Caesar. "I have virtues, morality and kindness but my past was in part a mixture of amazing, wonderful experiences tainted with demoralizing pain and cruelty. I have a disorder called dissociative identity disorder, and although this can be quite challenging, I also see my ability to dissociate as a skill and as a benefit in life. It's why I communicate in pictures. I live partly in another world of my own creation. This other world is a Paracosm, and my work is a series of windows into the world I have created in my own mind over a lifetime. Trying to live in two worlds is a challenge. Pictures and images allow me to work with that tainted virtue in such a way to turn a kind of ugliness into something beautiful."

(more)

The opening reception for Ray Caesar will be hosted Saturday, April 19, 2014, from 7-10pm at CHG Circa. The reception is open to the public, and the exhibition is on view through May 10, 2014.

RAY CAESAR

Ray Caesar was born in 1958 in London. At an early age, his family moved to Toronto, Canada, where he currently resides. From 1977—80 he attended Ontario College of Art, followed by 17 years from 1980—96 working in the art & photography department of the Hospital For Sick Children in Toronto, documenting disturbing cases of child abuse, surgical reconstruction, psychology, and animal research. Coupled with inspiration from surrealists Kahlo and Dali, Caesar's experiences at the hospital continue to influence his artwork. His haunting imagery is created digitally using 3D modeling software called Maya, mastered while working in digital animation for television and film industries from 1998—2001. In 1999, Caesar received a Primetime Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Special Effects in a series.

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 will present 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 will have 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.

CHG CIRCA

8530-A Washington Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232
310-287-2340
www.coreyhelfordgallery.com
Open Tuesday - Saturday, Noon to 6:00pm

Press and Media Inquiries:

Perry Simnowski
Perry@coreyhelfordgallery.com
310-287-2340

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