

RUIZ-HEALY ART

Latinx, Latin America, & Texas Contemporary Art

Chuck Ramirez The Armory Show 2022



Chuck Ramirez, Long-Term Survivor: Chaps, 1999/2019, Pigment inkjet print, 60 x 36 in each (Diptych) 60 x 72 in total, 152.4 x 182.9 cm, Edition of 6

Ruiz-Healy Art, Booth F19
The Javits Center
429 11th Avenue New York, NY 10001

Thursday, September 8 | VIP Preview
Friday, September 9 | 12pm - 8pm
Saturday, September 10 | 12 - 7pm
Sunday, September 11 | 12 - 6pm

Ruiz-Healy Art is thrilled to present the work of Chuck Ramirez at the 2022 edition of The Armory Show in New York City. This year the fair will focus its special programming on Latinx and Latin American art. Selected by Carla Acevedo-Yates, curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Ramirez' exhibition "Long-Term Survivor" will be recreated for the first time in its entirety since the original 1999 exhibition at Artpace in San Antonio, Texas.

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"The individual pieces explore the rituals of sustaining life and desire in the context of the AIDS crisis. Images range from abstractions of erotic toys to day-of-the-week pill boxes to leather chaps. Ramirez also presents a video piece on three monitors that display a spinning chrome ring—against a bright red wall. Working with materials and images that are part of his daily life—a life impacted by the AIDS crisis—Ramirez transforms the language and power of advertising into a call for action and compassion, expression and self-actualization." – Artpace, 1999

Although these works were exhibited more than 20 years ago HIV/AIDS is still at an endemic level and disproportionately affects Latin America, Caribbean, and Latinx communities. As a gay, Catholic, Mexican American, and HIV-positive man, Ramirez was at the forefront of activism within the HIV/AIDS Latinx community of South Texas. Thanks to antiretroviral “cocktail” therapies there are many “Long Term Survivors” and optimism for those who are diagnosed. Despite this progress, survival requires access to medical care, resources to pay for expensive lifesaving treatments, and forging through the stigma, discrimination, and criminalization that many survivors face. In the United States, an estimated 1.2 million people are living with HIV. There are an estimated 2.4 million people currently living with HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean.

About the Artist

Ramirez was a major force in the San Antonio art community before his untimely death in a 2010 cycling accident. A 2002 Artpace artist in residence, Ramirez’ work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. In 2012, The Smithsonian American Art Museum purchased Ramirez’ limited edition large-format photograph, *Seven Days: Breakfast Tacos*, for the institution’s permanent collection. During the winter of 2017, the McNay Art Museum exhibited the first significant survey of his work in the exhibition *Chuck Ramirez: All This and Heaven Too*. Ramirez’ work has been recently acquired by the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY and the Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX.

As an artist and graphic designer, Ramirez processed and deconstructed the media world in which he lived. Using typography and digital imaging technology, Ramirez isolates and recontextualizes familiar objects and texts to explore the human condition. Always personally relevant, Ramirez explored cultural identity, mortality, and consumerism through his photographs and installations; his work subverted stereotypes of those who cross cultural boundaries. Ramirez resurrects waste—photographing filled garbage bags, dying flowers, and battered, empty piñatas—reflecting on the fleeting nature of human existence while imposing the will to survive.

His work is in numerous permanent museum collection: Whitney Museum of American

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Art, New York, NY; The Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; The Pérez Art Museum (PAMM), Miami, FL; The San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX; The European Museum of Photography, Paris, France; The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX; El Museo Del Barrio, New York, NY; The Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX; The New México Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM; Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington, IN; Ruby City, San Antonio, TX; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore MD.

About Ruiz-Healy Art

Founded in San Antonio, TX in 2006 Ruiz-Healy Art represents an international roster of artists and places emphasis on Latinx and Latin American artists, as well as working with prominent Texas-based artists. Biculturalism and identity discourse plays an important role in several of the artists that we collaborate with. In the spring of 2019, Ruiz-Healy Art opened a gallery space in the Upper East Side of New York City that works in tandem with the San Antonio gallery as a platform to disseminate the artist's work. The continuous investments in these underrepresented areas have remained a longstanding signature of the gallery program.