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Ruiz-Healy Art™

RUIZ-HEALY ART ANNOUNCES

Chuck Ramirez: Minimally Baroque
September 1 – November 6, 2011

August 15, 2011 (San Antonio, TX) - **Ruiz-Healy Art** proudly announces **Chuck Ramirez: Minimally Baroque**, a FotoseptiembreUSA exhibit on display at Blue Star Contemporary Art Center. Chuck Ramirez (1962 – 2010) was an artist and designer who lived and worked in San Antonio, Texas. His large-scale photographic portraits and installations of ordinary objects are humorous, yet poignant metaphors for the transient nature of consumer culture and the frailty of life.

In creating the exhibition catalogue and establishing a curator for the exhibition, Patricia Ruiz-Healy reached out to noted Latin American art curator, Victor Zamudio-Taylor. Zamudio-Taylor had worked with Chuck as early as 1997, curating a group show in which Chuck participated. “For many years, Victor has recognized how Ramirez explored the various aspects of cultural identity, mortality and consumerism through his photography. To have his endorsement of this exhibition speaks volumes about Chuck’s creative legacy,” states Ruiz-Healy. In what will be the first exhibition since Ramirez’ death, attention has been paid to both his most iconic works, as well as more recent pieces that have not been previously displayed in public.

As an artist and graphic designer, Ramirez processed and deconstructed the media world in which he lived. His work employed visual and conceptual techniques found in contemporary advertising and package design, while employing subtle social commentary.

The exhibit at Blue Star will feature some of Ramirez’s most notable photographs. His *Coconut* and *Santos* series provoke reflection on the nature of religion and culture; the *Trash Bags* series speaks to consumer culture, and his *Brooms* draw a connection to the struggle of the worker. A special display of conceptual works, sketches, and ephemera from Chuck’s archive has been curated by Henry C. Estrada and will be on view.

In addition to the show at Blue Star, Chuck's work will be on exhibit at Ruiz-Healy Art. From the iconic *Whatacup* series in 2002, decadent *Godiva* chocolates trays, humorous piñata and purse portraits of close friends and associates, to the *Lost and Found* series, from Public Art San Antonio's installation at the San Antonio International Airport, Ramirez used typography and digital imaging technology by isolating and re-contextualizing familiar objects to explore the human condition. Over-flowing bacchanalia portraits in *Seven Days*, injected with visceral excessives in consumer behavior, are both humorous and poignant.

There will be an opening reception on **Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 6:00 pm** at Blue Star Contemporary Art Center, 116 Blue Star, San Antonio, Texas. During the opening reception, the **Minimally Baroque** catalogue will be for sale, featuring essays by Frances Colpitt and Henry C. Estrada, among others. A 48-page catalogue, the book features over one hundred images of Chuck's most iconic artworks.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chuck Ramirez showed extensively throughout the United States, Mexico, and Europe. Solo and group exhibitions include the Bronx Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; El Portal del Arte Contemporáneo (ARCO) Madrid; Centro de la Imagen and O Lamm, Mexico City; Galeries Khadrberlin, Berlin; Arlington Museum of Contemporary Art, TX; Center of the Visual Arts, Denver; the Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria, Austin, TX; the Institute of Visual Arts, Milwaukee; Blue Star Art Space, San Antonio; and the Elizabeth Dee Gallery, NY. He was selected for an Artpace residency in 2001 by Jérôme Sans, an independent curator and co-director of the Palais de Tokyo, Paris.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Victor Zamudio-Taylor has spent many years as an international curator of Latin American art and has written numerous articles and catalogues. Zamudio-Taylor was a Rockefeller Foundation Senior Research Fellow at the National Museum of American Art and the Archives of American Art in Washington D.C. He served as an advisor to the Manuel Alvarez Bravo Photography Collection in Mexico City. He is currently an advisor to Eugenio Lopez and the Jumex Collection in Mexico City.

The estate of Chuck Ramirez is exclusively represented by Ruiz-Healy Art. Ruiz-Healy Art deals in modern and contemporary works of Latin American art including painting, sculpture, photography and works on paper. More information at www.ruizhealyart.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 6:00 pm

Blue Star Contemporary Art Center

116 Blue Star

San Antonio, Texas.

To see more of Chuck's work, please visit Ruiz-Healy Art Studio, August 31 – October 13, 2011 to view the companion exhibit **Chuck Ramirez: Minimally Baroque**. For more information, please visit www.ruizhealyart.com. Ruiz-Healy Art is open by appointment: (210) 804-2219.

For additional information and to request images, please contact Libby D. Tilley (210.606.4686/libbytilleypr@gmail.com).

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