



# Chuck Ramirez Solo Exhibition

OPENS SEPTEMBER 11 AT BLANCA BERLÍN GALERÍA  
MADRID, SPAIN

*Presented in collaboration with Ruiz-Healy Art, The exhibition will be on view through October*

By Elaina Coates  
Photography Courtesy Ruiz-Healy Art

Ruiz-Healy Art is pleased to be a part of a special solo exhibition of works by Chuck Ramirez opening September 11 at renowned contemporary photography presenter Blanca Berlín Galería in Spain. Ruiz-Healy Art is the exclusive representative of the estate of Chuck Ramirez (1962-2010), one of San Antonio's most beloved and critically acclaimed artists. Ramirez mixed an Arte Povera-like appreciation for the humble aspects of life with a graphic designer's élan, bringing a joyous affirmation to acute observations on cultural identity, consumerism, and the limits of mortality. Working in series of photographs, Ramirez depicted the detritus of life—filled garbage bags, castoff brooms, empty candy trays, and broken piñatas—in stark portraits that mime the polished techniques of advertising layouts and package design.

His tableaux photographs, such as *Seven Days: Breakfast Tacos*, acquired from Ruiz-Healy Art by the Smithsonian American Art Museum for their permanent collection, explore more saturated compositions that brim with an effulgence of texture and color. Throughout his work, which also includes installation and text, Ramirez elevated the oft-ignored with stunning attention through tactics that have aptly been described by the late-Mexican curator, Victor Zamudio-Taylor, as “minimally baroque.” Located on Madrid's historic Plaza Guardias de Corps, Blanca Berlín presents an international selection of established artists from Spain, France, Israel, South Korea, the USA, and Latin America. The upcoming exhibition, which will include pieces from the *Brooms*, *Seven Days*, *Lost and Found*, *Purse Portrait*,

*Coconut*, *Whatacup*, and *Candy Tray* series of Ramirez's large-format photographs, is a significant stride in furthering the Ruiz-Healy Art program of collaborative projects. This exhibition builds on the program established with Chuck Ramirez: *Minimally Baroque* curated by Victor Zamudio-Taylor and exhibited at San Antonio's Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum, 2011 and *Dina Mitrani Gallery*, Miami, Florida, 2012. Ramirez is memorialized through the *Casa Chuck Arts Residency*, a program of Sala Diaz managed by Anjali Gupta. The residency is held at Ramirez's past living quarters in the iconic, wooden bungalow in San Antonio's Southtown neighborhood that also houses the legendary Sala Diaz series of contemporary art exhibitions.

Ruiz-Healy Art continues to support new scholarly studies on Ramirez. During her 2013 internship at Ruiz-Healy Art, The University of Texas at San Antonio student, Giselle Diaz created digital copies of Ramirez's notebooks, review clippings, and historical records that add to the ongoing work of Ramirez's catalogue raisonné. Ruiz-Healy Art has also facilitated access to the Ramirez archives to Illa Gaunt, who is completing her Master's thesis on Chuck Ramirez's work at the University of Texas at Houston. Works by Ramirez are held by Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The European Museum of Photography, Paris; Diane and Bruce Halle Collection, Phoenix; San Antonio Museum of Art; McNay Art Museum, San

Antonio; The Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio, and other public and private permanent collections and have been exhibited at Bronx Museum of the Arts, NY; Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires; ARCO 02, Madrid; Galerie Khadrberlin, Berlin; Dallas Visual Art Center; Lawndale Art Center, Houston; Museo de las Americas, Denver, and many more museums and galleries internationally. Blanca Berlín Galería is located at Calle Limón, 28 – Plaza Guardias de Corps, 28015 Madrid, Spain. Ruiz Healy Art was founded in 2004, and is located in the historic Olmos Park District of San Antonio; Ruiz-Healy Art specializes in contemporary and modern art with an emphasis on Latin American artists and artists living in, or with a connection to, Texas.

**Photo Credits:**  
**Pages 78 - 79 (L-R)**  
Broom Series-Orange  
Broom Series - Purple  
Broom Series - Green  
Broom Series - Straw  
**Pages 80 - 81 (L-R)**  
*Lost and Found*, *Granny goes to Vegas*  
*Lost and Found*, *Toys*  
*The Fashionista*  
*The Make-Up Artist*