

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHARD E. PEELER ART CENTER
UPCOMING EXHIBITION

CHUCK RAMIREZ: DEEPLY SUPERFICIAL

FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 5, 2006



Alex (Piñata Series), 2002
digital durst print

Courtesy of the artist and Finesilver Gallery, San Antonio

Greencastle, IN, January 2006 — A solo exhibition of photographs by San Antonio-based artist Chuck Ramirez opens at the Richard E. Peeler Art Center at DePauw University on February 1, 2006.

Working primarily with large-scale photography, Chuck Ramirez's oeuvre includes prints and sculptural installations that are charged with metaphors of ethnicity, gender, sexuality and religion. Using typography and digital imaging technology, his work deconstructs the media world by isolating and recontextualizing familiar objects and texts as a means of exploring the human condition. Always personally relevant and charged, Ramirez's photographs and installations explore cultural identity, mortality, physicality and consumerism. Photo-based, graphically direct and multileveled, his work also references the mixed blessings of identity-oriented, ethnic art.

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Ramirez's work is particularly effective in its synthesis of personal history and narrative with pressing social issues. Drawing from personal and popular imagery – his grandmother's kitchen, his artist friends, and Brady Bunch graphics – he uses the familiar to explore how social issues impact his individual life. While earlier work investigated the complexity of Latino identity and visibility, queer politics and the AIDS crisis (Ramirez is an HIV+ gay male), in his more recent work, Ramirez resurrects waste — photographing such things as filled garbage bags, dying flowers, and battered, empty piñatas — reflecting on the fleeting nature of human existence while imposing the will to survive.

Ramirez has shown 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 Galeria 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 Jerome Sans, an independent curator and co-director of the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. He currently resides in San Antonio.

This exhibition may be visited through March 5, 2006, and is free and open to the public.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

February 15, 2006, 4 – 6 pm
Opening reception with talk by the artist
Please call 765.658.4336 for more information

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The galleries at the Richard E. Peeler Art Center are open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Please call the gallery information line at 765.658.4882 or visit our website at <http://www.depauw.edu/galleries> for more information about special events associated with this exhibition.

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For more information please contact:

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