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Chuck Ramirez Solo Exhibition in Madrid **At Blanca Berlín Galería Madrid, Spain**

Opening Thursday, September 11, 2014.

Presented in collaboration with
Ruiz-Healy Art

The exhibition will be on view through October

Ruiz-Healy Art is pleased to announce a special solo exhibition of works by Chuck Ramirez opening September 11, 2014 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 elan, 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. Other collaborative projects in the Ruiz-Healy Art 2014 season include *Straight from Berlin: Paintings and Works on Paper by Uwe Kowski and Jörg Herold*, in collaboration with Galerie EIGEN + ART, Leipzig/Berlin, on view at Ruiz-Healy Art in San Antonio March 27 through May 3, 2014 and the upcoming *Nicolás Leiva: Infinite Cycle Under Fire*, presented in tandem with *Nicolás Leiva: Infinite Cycle* at Southwest School of Art, May 9 through July 6, 2014.

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.

Seven Days: Breakfast Tacos appears in the travelling exhibition *Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art*, organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., where it was on view October 25, 2013 to March 2, 2014. The exhibition will travel to five museums over the next two years, and appears next at The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, April 2 through June 22, 2014. Ramirez's piece and profile appear in the accompanying catalogue with essays by independent scholar Tomás Ybarra-Frausto and E. Carmen Ramos, curator of Latino art at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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.

To request more information and high-resolution images of the exhibition please contact the gallery at 210-804-2219 or email us at info@ruizhealyart.com.

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.