

THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY

international contemporary art center



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images (top to bottom, details): Apex, **Untitled** (2009); Chor Boogie, **The Silver Queens of the Romantic White Tiger** (2009); Jet Martinez, **Tropics of San Francisco** (2008-2009). Courtesy of the artists

THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY at Syracuse University presents ***Colorfornia: New Forms in West Coast Street Art: Apex, Chor Boogie, and Jet Martinez***
Round-Table Discussion on Street Art and the Use of Spray Paint: Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m., Shemin Auditorium at Shaffer Art Building, Syracuse University.
Music Performance by Mouth's Cradle: Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Warehouse Gallery
Public Reception: September 15, 5-8 p.m. **Artist's Lecture:** 7 p.m., Warehouse Auditorium
Exhibition on view September 15-October 29
Location: 350 W. Fayette St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13202

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Sept. 1—This fall/winter, the Warehouse Gallery's exhibitions focus on the medium of painting by juxtaposing street art in September (*Colorfornia: New Forms in West Coast Street Art: Apex, Chor Boogie and Jet Martinez*) to contemporary Chinese ink brush paintings in November (Deng Guo Yuan). The exhibitions are intended for audiences of all ages. All events are free and open to the public.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION:

California based street artists Apex, Chor Boogie and Jet Martinez will create new site-specific, temporary murals for the Warehouse Gallery's September exhibition *Colorfornia: New Forms in West Coast Street Art*. The work is based on improvisation, and the notion that how and what they paint is recognizably Californian in its focus on strong colors, patterns, forms and nature. Their language consists of colorful abstract forms pertaining to optical illusions and movement, faces, evoking real and imaginary urban settings, and imaginary tropical landscapes. All three of the artists have significantly contributed to public art in San Francisco, San Diego and other major cities within and outside of the United States through their use of spray (Apex; Chor Boogie) and traditional paint (Jet Martinez) to achieve elaborate compositions with high attention to detail.

Placing street art, by definition a public art form, in the more formal space of the Warehouse Gallery offers the opportunity for a new perspective on the role and place of street art, specifically the pivotal role of

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street art in California. Programming will include a lecture by the artists, a round-table discussion on street art and the use of spray paint, and musical performances (Mouth's Cradle by SU students Kevin Hegedus and Brandon Linn, and street dancing). The exhibition is organized in conjunction with the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations in Syracuse.

A gallery guide accompanies the exhibition with an essay by Anja Chávez. The catalog will be available at the gallery and online beginning Sept. 27.

Additional support for the exhibition is provided by Tucker B. Culbertson and the Delavan Center, Inc. Additional support for the round-table discussion is provided by the Painting Program, as part of the Department of Art Visiting Artist Lecture Series.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:



APEX (b. 1978, San Francisco, CA), also known as Ricardo Richey, is a street artist who creates colorful abstract patterns through the use of spray paint. Part of the *Gestalt Collective* that engages in collaborative murals in San Francisco, Apex curated mural projects on Bluxome Alley, other districts of San Francisco and the SFMOMA display windows in association with St. Johns Community Center (San Francisco, 2002). His work has been shown extensively both in the Bay Area and abroad. Recent group exhibitions include *Calligraffiti: Writing in Contemporary Chinese and Latino Art*, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, Calif. (2009); *Bay Area Now 4*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2005), White Walls, and the Luggage Store Gallery. He was the artist in residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts (2007), and was featured in documentaries and publications regarding the Mission District in San Francisco.



Chor Boogie (b.1979, San Diego, CA) is a self-taught San Francisco-based street artist known for his visionary spray paintings. A recipient of several awards, including the LA Art Show Live painting (2011), the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (curator, 2005) and Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles, (2011), Chor Boogie created commissioned murals within (Minneapolis, Minn.; San Diego; San Francisco; LA; NY; Miami) and outside of the U.S. (Beijing; Berlin; Dubai; Rio de Janeiro; Melbourne, Australia). He has painted commissioned portraits of many celebrities such as Hugh Hefner and Jay-Z.

THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY

international contemporary art center



Jet Martinez (b.Tuxpan, Veracruz, Mexico 1973) lives and works in Oakland and San Francisco, Calif., where he is currently the art director for the Clarion Alley Mural Project (CAMP) in the Mission District. He received his B.F.A in painting and printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2001 and studied Spanish literature at the University of Colorado, Boulder (1992-1995). Martinez is the recipient of the San Francisco Arts Commission's Art in Grant (2009), the Port of Oakland/ Oakland Arts Council Grant for Artists (2005) and the Ivan Majdrakov Award in Painting, SFAI (2000-2001). His work has been shown extensively nationally (such as Chicano Biennial, Museo de Arte y Cultura Latino Americano, San José, Calif.; Mesa Arts Center, Mesa, Ariz.) and internationally (such as Mimi Mayer, Haas&Mayer Gallery, Zurich; Ichy's Gallery, Tokyo). Martinez created commissioned murals for the San Francisco Arts Commission/Department of Public Works, San Francisco; the San José Federal Building, San José, Calif.; the Oakland International Airport; and has significantly contributed to

public art in San Francisco, San Diego and other major cities outside of the United States (Oaxaca, Mexico; Zurich).

OTHER EXHIBITIONS:



THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY WINDOW PROJECTS at Syracuse University features *Transcendence*, on view Sept. 15–Oct. 29. This summer, Oscar Garcés created his first large-scale on-site mural. It offers a local echo to the main gallery exhibition and depicts a seated man on a mountaintop. His right hand is raised skyward. This gesture of giving a blessing has been used in the arts since the sixth century to represent Christ Pantocrator (“Almighty”), illustrating Christ’s dual nature: divine and human. Here, his face is turned toward the public. It is a self-portrait of the artist, who, in representing himself as Christ and in titling the exhibition *Transcendence*, engages in a conversation between art and religion in the 21st

century.

Transcendence, 2011 (in progress)
Courtesy of the artist

Born in Santiago, Cuba, Garcés (b.1987) came to the United States in 2000. He attended Nottingham High School in Syracuse, N.Y. (2002-2005) and graduated from Flanagan High School in Pembroke Pines, Fla. (2006). While in Florida, Garcés received the Silver Knight Honorable Mention Award (2006) and the Golden Key Scholastics Art Award (2006). He was exhibited at Pembroke Pines City Hall (2006) as well as at the Florida International University (2008). Upon returning to Syracuse, Garcés has taught painting at Nottingham High School, where he also led and documented the collaborative process of two murals (2008). In spring 2011, he directed a workshop with young local students that resulted in an exhibition at the Point of Contact Gallery (Syracuse). Recently, Garcés was included in a group exhibition at La Casita Cultural Center (Syracuse). *Transcendence* is his first museum solo show.

Organized in conjunction with the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY

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Workshop by the artist for children ages 6-14 on Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. (The Warehouse Gallery). Call to register (315) 443-6450. For more information, visit <http://thewarehousegallery.syr.edu> under WINDOW PROJECTS.

ABOUT THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY:

THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY is an international contemporary art venue of SUArt Galleries at Syracuse University. The gallery's mission is to present exhibitions and programs by artists whose work engages the community in a dialogue regarding the role the arts can play in illuminating critical issues of our life and times.

For guided tours, large-group visits and/or interviews with the artists and curator, please contact the gallery via whginfo@syr.edu.



The Warehouse Gallery is accessible to wheelchair users via a street-level power-assist door adjacent to The Window Projects Gallery on W. Fayette St. For more information or groups with special needs please contact the gallery staff at (315) 443-6450.

EVENT PARKING: Free parking for main event nights is provided in the WHSE Lot adjacent to the building. The lot is accessible via Washington Street. Check in with the guard at the booth; you will be directed where to park. On all other dates please use area parking lots or street parking. The Connective Corridor Free Shuttle (Centro #543) stops in front of the building on West Fayette Street, on a 40 min. loop. Visit <http://connectivecorridor.syr.edu> for more information. The Warehouse Shuttle/Centro #443 (between campus and the Warehouse Bld.) arrives in 10-20 min. intervals.

