

HP GARCIA GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Madonna

Opening Reception: 13 May 2009, from 6 PM to 11 PM
Panels and performances to be announced
Open to the public through 27 July 2009
Gallery hours are 1 to 6 PM, Tuesday through Saturday
Contact: 212.354.7333 or info@hpgarciagallery.com



HP Garcia Gallery is pleased to announce BLACK MADONNA, a groundbreaking multimedia group exhibition inspired by the compelling Mark Wiener underground photographic works known as *The Black Madonna Series*.

Curated by Lisa Paul Streitfeld and H.P. Garcia, this multimedia exhibition explores the physical form of the icon within the context of a celebrity-obsessed, corporate-manipulated consumer culture. The answer points to the body and how we perceive and view ourselves under such influences.

In legend, the Black Madonna was the "San Grail" (Holy Blood) who carried the lineage of Christ through the centuries. We revisit this icon as we seek the physical form of what scientists are now naming "dark matter." The men and women in this exhibition have made the journey inward, in the context of the consumer culture, to explore what continues to be repressed. By way of erotic engagement -- between their materials, personal narrative and universal archetype -- they newly define themselves in a state of holism.

Participants extend from early feminists such as Kate Millett --a sculptor who became famous overnight with the 1970 publication of her book, *Sexual Politics* -- to Richard Move, the performance impresario who found fame as the "underground Martha Graham."

The exhibition places new and existing art stars such as Carolee Schneemann, Heide Hatry, Richard Humann, Sophie Matisse, Rick Prol, Marshall Arisman, Dove Bradshaw, Martha Wilson and Mike Bidlo in a 21st century context while celebrating the rise of a new movement devoted to holism in art.

Subjects range from the female face to the sacred geometry of Venus, bringing in themes such as shamanism, apocalyptic pop, celebrity satire, the excavation of hidden mythologies and the counterculture embrace of a new cosmology.

Mark Wiener's *The Black Madonna Series* captures the icon in its raw state. A artist/performer in the tradition of Yves Klein, Wiener's installation will incorporate his full circle trajectory -- from using markings on the body to explore a new iconography to his recent actions revealing the sacred geometry underlying chaos.

The exhibition will exhibit works in painting, photography, video, collage, drawing, sculpture, installation and performance that find a face for the long repressed feminine. These are typically works that, in the words of curator/critic Lisa Paul Streitfeld: "continue the legend of the Black Madonna by being kept in the closet. They are the hidden treasures that every curator hopes to find in the process of digging through an artist's work and need be coaxed into the light of day."

All but one of the works were pre-existing to the announcement of this show. In exploring the past through this present lens of integration in the post-Obama era, the exhibition points to a new cosmology through the conscious manifestation of the sacred geometry of Venus into art, thereby redefining beauty as a holistic integration of mind and body.

Also participating are: Vincent Baldasano, Karen Bernard, Laurel Jay Carpenter, Linda DiGusta, Maya Erdelyi, Camille Eskill, Carla Gannis, Harlan Emil Gruber, Selma Karaca, Walter Kenul, Isolde Kille, Marni Kotak, Yulia Lanina, D. Dominick Lombardi, Michael Manning, Irina Movmyga, Kevin Robinson, Daniel Rothbart, Donna Ruff, Janet Rutkowski, Iris Schieferstein, Joel Simpson, Marissa Soroudil, Tatyana Stepanova, Danielle St Laurent, Cassie Thornton, Susan Weinreich and Michael Zansky.

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