

ANDRES SERRANO *HOLY WORKS*

OPENING: Thursday September 22, 2011 from 6 to 9 pm.

DATES: From September 23 through November 19, 2011

HOURS: Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1 to 7:30 pm.

Galleria Pack is proud to present *HOLY WORKS*, the first exhibition by **Andres Serrano** entirely conceived and created specifically for the gallery, within which the American artist will recreate and reinterpret medieval and renaissance religious painting.

For *HOLY WORKS*, the artist does not intend to reinterpret specific artworks from art history, and the presence of a "Last Supper" should not lead anyone astray. What Serrano is aiming for is an overall reinterpretation of the idea of sacred portraiture within art history. Far from the iconoclastic intentions typical of many of his past series, the artist appears oriented on an interpretation of fifteenth-century Italian painting, reinvigorating it in his trademark fashion through the use of characters selected from among his friends and acquaintances who possess facial characteristics typical of the New York melting pot, and who always play a central role in his photographic works.

"Rather than destroy sacred icons," says Serrano, "I reinvent and reinforce them." Throughout Serrano's artistic production, there exists a deliberate and declared desire to be recognized by ecclesiastic authorities as one of the most important religious artists of his day and age. For this reason *HOLY WORKS* appears right from first glance to be one of the most important and heartfelt series this New York artist has ever produced. His works *The Last Supper*, the triptych *3 Stages of the Cross*, *La Chinoise Madonna* and *Blood Madonna* represent the culmination of a career's worth of interest in sacred Christian iconography. **Andres Serrano** has often been defined as "a modern Caravaggio," and this series of artworks confirms the appellation, definitively consecrating him as one of the most important contemporary artists who has ever dared address religious themes and the iconography of sacred art history.

Andres Serrano (New York City, 1950) expresses a personal iconography in his artworks that has been built up over the course of a lifetime, and which today constitutes the most original aspect of his artistic production. Serrano is currently considered a historically important figure in the international art scene and, despite the fact that he is a deeply religious individual, his artworks have often been considered scandalous precisely because they deal with subjects connected with the Catholic tradition.

Serrano expresses his art through photographs in an entirely autonomous manner thanks in part to the use of posters that inundate the streets of cities where his exhibitions are held, making it possible for his artworks to reach thousands and thousands of people. This is the reason why his art has made waves far outside the art world: for example many people are familiar with his 1987 artwork *Piss Christ*, a plastic crucifix immersed in a glass full of urine that put Serrano on the map in the contemporary art world and established the artist's reputation once and for all.

Some of the Andres Serrano's more important exhibitions include: *Andres Serrano: Fluids*, Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris, 1998; *Andres Serrano: A History of Sex*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York; *A History of Andres Serrano: A History of Sex*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, The Netherlands, 1997; *Andres Serrano*, Saatchi Museum, London, U.K., 1991; *Andres Serrano: Works 1983-93*, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; *The Morgue*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Montreal, Canada, 1995.