

Mel Chin

More Greatest Hits

February 12th – April 12th, 2014

Opening Receptions

Thursday, February 13th, 5-7pm

Saturday, April 5th, 6-9pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(New Orleans, Louisiana) January, 2013



Jonathan Ferrara Gallery is proud to announce *More Greatest Hits*, a multi-media exhibition featuring works by artist **Mel Chin**. *More Greatest Hits* will be on view from February 12th through April 12th, 2014, with opening receptions on **Thursday, February 13th, 5-7pm** and **Saturday April 5th, 6-9pm**.

In advance of the major Mel Chin retrospective exhibition, *Rematch*, at the **New Orleans Museum of Art**, Jonathan Ferrara Gallery presents a rich selection of over twenty works by Mel Chin including works on paper, small sculptures, and a recent major work, the *Cabinet of Craving*. All works reflect the diversity of Chin's concerns: current events, power and politics, cross-cultural aesthetics, complex ideas, all made with exquisite craftsmanship in service to concept. Drawings reflect multiple themes, from the destruction of culture in an ancient society to enigmatic pairings of cultural motifs. Skillful, sophisticated renderings of unexpected images are mysterious, magnetic, and moving.

Since it's hard to reveal all the selections for the retrospective, I can offer some additional hits to convey the shapes of things to come. - Mel Chin

Among the works in the gallery are: *Cross for the Unforgiven*, a conflation of powerful representative iconographies. Eight AK-47s come together in a new arrangement of creation and destruction projecting both belief and violence at once, and yet open to individual interpretation. *Imperfect Pearls in the Ether of Infinite Labor*, a combination woodcut and lithograph, is a gorgeous abstract homage to collective aesthetic effort. *QWERTY Courbet*, an imbedded wall sculpture, comes from a dream and evokes the master artist Gustav Courbet's *L'Origine du monde*. Contemporary use of, and obsession with, the internet and an historical origin of the male gaze are reflected in the active keyboard and computer screen. Also expect rare, esoteric, stand-alone works derived from source material executed during Chin's research and development of installations and projects.

Mel Chin was born in Houston, Texas and began making art at an early age. He is known for the broad range of approaches in his art, including works that require multi-disciplinary, collaborative teamwork and works that conjoin cross-cultural aesthetics with complex ideas. He developed *Revival Field* (1989-ongoing), a project that pioneered the field of "green remediation," the use of plants to remove toxic, heavy metals from the soil. A current project, *Fundred Dollar Bill/Operation Paydirt*, focuses on national prevention of childhood lead-poisoning. Mel is also well known for his iconic sculptures, works that often address the importance of memory and collective identity, and for inserting art into unlikely places,

including destroyed homes, toxic landfills, and even popular television, investigating how art can provoke greater social awareness and responsibility. His work is exhibited extensively in the U.S. and abroad and was documented in the popular PBS program, *Art 21: Art of the 21st Century*. His proposal for a New World Trade Center was part of the American representation at the 2002 Venice Biennale of Architecture. Mel is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, including four honorary doctorates. A monograph of the installation, *The Funk & Wag from A to Z*, is being published by the Menil Collection and distributed by Yale University press in 2014, and a traveling retrospective exhibition of his work, titled *Rematch*, will open at the New Orleans Museum of Art in February, 2014.

Chin has been exhibited nationally and internationally in institutions such as: Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Whitney Museum of American Art, Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Menil Collection, Smithsonian Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston), The Queens Museum of Art, Bronx Museum of Arts, Asheville Arts Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, Denver Museum of Art, Portland Museum of Art, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, Asheville Arts Museum, Museum of Fine Arts (Houston) and Mint Museum of Art. He has been commissioned for public projects and installations for: MoMA P.S.1, The New York Times Magazine, Central Park Arts Commission, Bryant Park, Corcoran College of Art and Design, and Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Chin's work awarded numerous honors, including: National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Pollock/ Krasner Foundation Fellowship, Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant, Rockefeller Foundation Grant, Joan Mitchell Foundation Award, Creative Capital Grant, and an Honorary Doctorate - Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

Chin's work has been reviewed in numerous publications including *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *ARTnews*, *Art Papers*, *New York Times*, *Times Magazine*, *Village Voice*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *Scientific American*, *Newsweek*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *American Art: A Cultural History*, *Arts Magazine*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *The Times Picayune*. His work appears in many public collections including MoMA, Whitney Museum of American Art, Walker Art Center, High Museum of Art, The Menil Collection, New York Public Library, The Federal Reserve, Museum of Fine Art (Houston), El Paso Museum of Art, Columbus Museum of Art and Birmingham Museum.

Mel Chin live and works in Asheville, North Carolina.