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TORRANCE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS

DEATH CULT & Alptraum (Nightmare)

January 18 – March 14, 2020

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 18, 6-9pm



SKULLS. MOTORCYCLES. A MOMENT OF IMPACT.

VENUE: Torrance Art Museum
LOCATION: 3320 Civic Center Dr, Torrance, CA
DATES: January 18 – March 14, 2020
Opening Saturday, January 18 from 6-9pm

TORRANCE, CA – Torrance Art Museum (TAM) examines the human fascination with skulls and mortality throughout the history of art and its intersection with motorcycle sub-cultures in the Main Gallery and Dark Room exhibition **DEATH CULT**. Gallery Two hosts a traveling exhibition of 239 artists from 21 countries called **Alptraum (Nightmare)**.

Main Gallery & The Dark Room – DEATH CULT

The obsession with Death has always been a fundamental pivot for much of art throughout history and across geographical boundaries. As Western contemporary culture moved into a period of youth sub-cultures in the mid-1950s the skull took on various signifiers for myriad groups and has continued to maintain that tradition with greasers, punks, contemporary skaters, and others making use of the skull as a motif.

This exhibition focuses on the ubiquitous human skull and sub-cultural expression of ‘the American Dream’, with a particular focus on the motorcycle world lifestyle, as its participants have one of the largest mortality rates amongst these sub-cultures. **DEATH CULT** explores the link between the sub-cultural yearnings for freedom expressed through the motorcycle, its movies, its tropes, and the vanitas nature of skull related art works – a reminder of our own mortality, *memento mori*.

Featuring: William Arvin, Wayne Martin Belger, Matthew Brannon, Liz Craft, Jesus Max Ferrandez, Amy Granat, Drew Heitzler, Roger Herman, Matthew Day Jackson, Jacob Kassay, Wes Lang, Robert Lazzarini, Olivier Mosset, Mark Mulrone, Frank Orozco, Don Porchella, Ronald Price, Jason Ramos, Blake Rayne, Jono Rotman, Allison Schulnik, Marcus Sendlinger, Ushio Shinohara, Meghan Smythe, Nick Veasey, Ben Venom, Cindy Wright, and others.

Curated by Max Presneill with Sue-Na Gay

Gallery Two – Alptraum (Nightmare)

A touring show of 2D works by 200+ artists, from 21+ countries, conceived and organized by Marcus Sendlinger (Germany) that has been travelling through the world since 2010.

The title was inspired by the paintings of the Swiss artist Johann-Heinrich Füssli (1741 Zurich - 1825 London) who painted different versions of Incubus (Nachtmahr). Inspired by ghost stories, Füssli made the world of dreams and visions the subject of his paintings. This exhibition reflects on various artistic, social and cultural circumstances individually concerning nightmares - and each artists' interpretation or reflection in drawing, collage, photography or works on paper.

The 200+ artists invited to contribute to this exhibition have been asked to only submit works which they have had a direct hand in creating, so physical contact and mark making on the surface of the material is implied in a manner akin to the scryer, an ‘automatic writer’, a pyromancer’s stirring of the hot embers, an ectoplasmic medium – the hand that re-creates the subconscious wanderings of its owner.

DEATH CULT and Alptraum (Nightmare) will be on view from **January 18 – March 14, 2020** at the Torrance Art Museum.

The Opening Reception will be held on Saturday, January 18 from 6pm-9pm

For more information, please visit:

TorranceArtMuseum.com

Torrance Art Museum:

Founded in 2005, the Torrance Art Museum is the premier visual art space to view contemporary art in the South Bay. The museum encourages all people to develop and increase their understanding and appreciation for modern programs, artist talks, lectures, and symposia. Through its emphasis on contemporary artistic expression in Southern California and globally, the Torrance Art Museum brings together visual artists and community members; fosters experiences in the arts to strengthen creative and critical thinking skills; and builds bridges between the visual arts and other disciplines in the humanities and sciences. Torrance Art Museum is a program of the City of Torrance Cultural Services Division of the Community Services Department.

For more information visit www.TorranceArtMuseum.com or call 310-618-6388.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Admission to the Torrance Art Museum is Free.

Torrance Art Museum
3320 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90503

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