



CONTEMPORARY  
ARTS  
CENTER

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C E N T E R B E A T

Spring 2004

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CAC



Glen E. Friedman, Tony Alva, 1977

**BEAUTIFUL LOSERS**

CONTEMPORARY ART AND STREET CULTURE

Members' Opening Party March 12

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# BEAUTIFUL LOSERS

Contemporary Art and Street Culture

March 13–May 23, 2004

**On occasion,** in fact whenever an “inner quickening” demands it, New York-based artist Phil Frost paints with Pentel Correction Fluid instead of paint. He once painted at night, standing in a glass cage in a notorious San Francisco neighborhood, while local residents smoked crack pipes around him and police sirens howled through the streets.

“My painting is a culmination of where I am in a particular time or place, my relationship to the things around me, and my perception of them through painting,” he says.

Frost is a painter. He says he’s trying to chart an impulse—something he calls an “inner quickening.” Glyphic patterns repeat neatly, marching across his canvasses before buckling and sliding wildly away; faces emerge, peeking from stolen cartoon panels and then disappear again, lost in the nightmare contours of paint and correction fluid.

He designs shoes too. And the shoeboxes they come in.

Frost is a beautiful loser. In fact, Frost is one of more than 50 beautiful losers whose works will be appearing as part of the *Beautiful Losers: Contemporary Art and Street Culture* exhibition that opens March 13, 2004, and runs until May 23, 2004.

The exhibition brings together artists from multiple disciplines, whose works are inspired by various aspects of

urban life and street culture. Included are painters, sculptors, photographers, filmmakers, performance artists, graphic designers, illustrators and multimedia artists. The exhibition is organized in five sections:

One section is devoted to examining those artists who have had direct influence on the development of the generation of artists and designers that is the focus of the exhibition. This section will include paintings, drawings, photographs, graphics, and samples and documentation of early works by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol, Neil Blender, Henry Chalfant, Larry Clark, R. Crumb, Glen E. Friedman, Ari Marcopoulos, Raymond Pettibon, Pushead, and Craig R. Stecyk; and the hand-painted skateboards of Dogtown’s Wes Humpston.

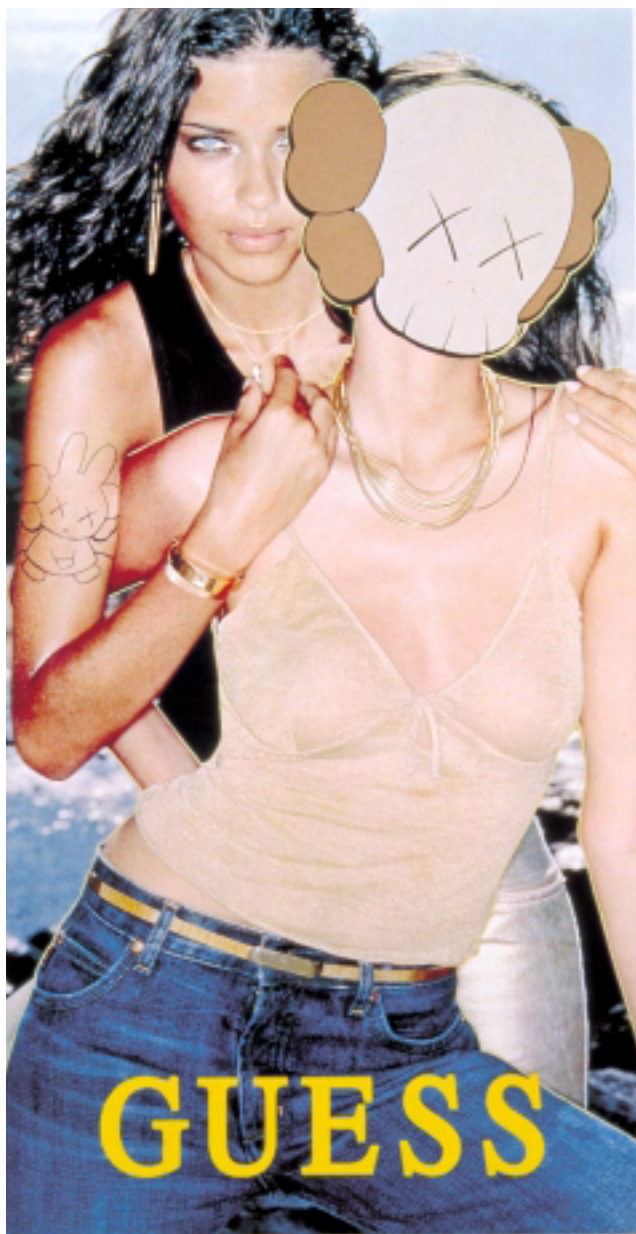
The Body of the exhibition showcases the recent multi-media art of Thomas Campbell, Cynthia Connolly, Brian Donnelly (KAWS), Cheryl Dunn, Shepard Fairey, Phil Frost, Mark Gonzales, Evan Hecox, Jo Jackson, Todd James (REAS), James Jarvis, Andy Jenkins, Chris Johanson, Spike Jonze, Margaret Kilgallen, Harmony Korine, Geoff McFetridge, Barry McGee, Ryan McGinley, Ryan McGinness, Mike



Ryan McGinness, *Untitled (Project Rainbow Series)*, detail, 2003, oil enamel and silkscreen ink on wood panel, 15 x 15 in. Courtesy Deitch Projects, New York



Barry McGee, *Untitled*, 2003, silkscreen on paper, 20 x 16 in.



KAWS, photo courtesy of KAWS

Mills, Stephen Powers (ESPO), Clare Rojas, Terry Richardson, Ed Templeton, Romon Yang (Rostarr), and Tobin Yelland.

Tommy Guerrero, a top professional skateboarder in the 1980s and early 1990s, turned his attention to music in the last decade, producing four solo albums and numerous projects for other musicians. Working with samples of popular music relevant to these subcultures, he will create a soundscape that will enhance the full exhibition environment.

The exhibition will also feature a wide selection of ephemera created by such designers as Doze, Dalek, Andrew Jeffrey Wright, Os Gemeos, Eric Haze, Lance Mountain, Garry S. Davis, Jim Houser, Sean Cliver and Mark McKee. This section will include albums, books, prints, posters, shoes and apparel, skateboards, toys, limited edition objects and zines.

Finally, a carefully selected program of film and video will highlight the varied works by and about the artists in the exhibition. Through these artist films, skate videos, documentaries, animations, commercials, and music videos, the full range of influence on these artists comes into clearer focus.

In his or her own way, each artist represents the subcultures of skateboarding, punk, hip-hop, and graffiti, often inhabiting and redefining the spaces that exist between these disparate worlds, and making those spaces their own.

Each artist has found a way to claim that space: artist and designer Ryan McGinness sneaks into major galleries and replaces sales rack postcards with postcards of his own; artist and filmmaker Harmony Korine sold the screenplay to the controversial 1995 film *Kids* after meeting filmmaker Larry Clark while skateboarding in New York's Washington Square Park; artist KAWS worked as a freelance animator for Disney before producing works that parodied Mickey Mouse.

McGinness tries to explain the attraction of the skateboard scene to artists: "I think it ties into this Do-It-Yourself mentality," he says.

McGinness says designing skateboards provided a way for him to reevaluate his childhood as a member of a surf and skateboard culture in Virginia Beach.

"It wasn't the industry it is now," he says. "It was the outsiders who skated and designed and hand painted their own shirts and made their own zines and shared their own zines."

These artists are multi-talented; as side-projects—while they wait for their "inner quickenings" to arrive—they play in bands, appear in movies, write novels, film documentaries, challenge the political status quo, design album covers, and generally excel at the types of thing that most of us are unable to accomplish even when we focus our undiluted attention on them.

This is not just contemporary art; it's right-now art. It's a collection of images and objects that help to define a culture. It's a way of life, an ideology, a new religion. It's a roar from the dark streets. It's shotgun art. It's a single weathered graffiti on a peeling tenement block in the city. And it's here.

*Exhibition Sponsor: Lightborne Communications*

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*Beautiful Losers: Contemporary Art and Street Culture* is organized by Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, and is guest curated by Iconoclast Productions with Thom Collins, Rene de Guzman, and Matthew Distel.

## BEAUTIFUL LOSERS OPENING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday, March 11

**5–8 pm** at Shake-It Records

In-store signing with *Beautiful Losers* artists

**7 pm** Glue in-store performance

**7–10 pm** at Publico

*Good World* exhibition

### Friday, March 12

**M 5–5:45 pm Cocktails with the Artists**  
(for Director and Trustee Level Members Only)

Share drinks and chat one-on-one with the artists of *Beautiful Losers: Contemporary Art and Street Culture*.

**M 6–7 pm Conversation with the Artists**  
(for Collector's Connection, Patron, Curator, Director and Trustee Level Members)

**m 7 pm–Midnight Beautiful Losers Members' Opening Party**

Musical Performances throughout the night by local and national artists

### Saturday, March 13

**3 pm Professional skateboard performance** by Toy Machine

**4–5 pm Panel Discussion** featuring the artists and curators of *Beautiful Losers*. Free with admission.

**7 pm–Midnight** at The Mockbee  
Beaver College exhibition

Featuring the work of The Royal Art Lodge, Space 1026 and Paper Rodeo

Musical Performances by The Fever and The Secret Machines

### Sunday, March 14

**1–2 pm** at Satellite 13

In-store signing

**2–6 pm** at The Mockbee

Professional Skateboard Demonstrations by Habitat, Seek, Alien Workshop and Toy Machine

### Thursday, March 25

**5:30 pm Curatorial Walk-through**  
Free with admission

*Events in red are held at the Contemporary Arts Center*

## The Contemporary Arts Center

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Become a corporate member of the Contemporary Arts Center. Corporate membership at the CAC offers special benefits and services designed for small and mid-sized businesses. Annual memberships begin with a gift of \$500. As a corporate member, you will receive exclusive invitations to member-only and corporate events. Join now to be included in the CAC's next Corporate Member event!

To ensure your invitation to this Spring's corporate event, contact the Associate Director of Development at (513) 345-8400.

Intelliseek is the CAC preferred research provider.

# Join the CAC Today...

Don't let your friends miss the next members' opening, **MARCH 12**, celebrating *Beautiful Losers*. Make sure they join now! Members at any level get a full year of fantastic benefits.

Please call 513-345-8438 for more information.

# Party for a Year

## INFORMATION



Information	General Information	513.721.0390
	Group Tour Information	513.345.8420
	Administrative Offices	513.345.8400
	Fax	513.721.7418

Hours	Sunday, Tuesday–Friday	11am–6pm
	Monday	11am–9pm (free admission 5pm–9pm)
	Saturday	noon–6pm (members only 10am–noon)
	Additional evening hours available. Check website or call for details.	

Admission	Adult	\$6.50
	Senior (65+)	\$5.50
	Student with ID	\$4.50
	Children (3–13)	\$3.50
	Members & Children under 3	free
Annual memberships start at \$45		



CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

44 East Sixth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

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