

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

6 MARCH – 25 APRIL 2010

PLASMA POOL

MARCO RIOS

Simon Preston Gallery is pleased to present Marco Rios in his first solo exhibition at the gallery, *Plasma Pool*, which opens to the public on Saturday, March 6, and runs until Sunday, April 25.

Adopting traits from a variety of late 19th Century Gothic fiction, such as Robert Louis Stevenson's novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1866), H.G Wells' *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897), the exhibition comprises of a series of sculptures, photographs and drawings. By combining elements of romance and horror, Rios suggests various modes of physical and emotional transformation, while continuing to mine an intimate personal psychology.

The title of the show, *Plasma Pool*, directly references Cronenberg's *The Fly* (1986), itself a modern day story of metamorphosis and mutation. Titles such as *Neurochemical Squirt* and *Affectionate Cranial Scoop*, suggest tender, if unsettling, gestures towards intimacy, while the objects themselves, a human-scale nutcracker and spoon-shaped drill-bit, reveal the hyperbolic brutality required to perform their unique tasks. *Tear Sips (700ml at a time)*, a glass device shaped to wrap around the necks of a couple in embrace, implies the ingesting of tears expelled and caught in delicate eyeglasses. *Orificial Juice Exchange*, a large-scale laboratory-inspired glass sculpture, foregoes this modesty and restraint, with attachments for a total bodily fluid transfusion.

By assuming literary, filmic and art historical guises, Rios is able to employ humor and slapstick in his exploration of a mind tormented by plurality. The walls of the gallery are painted to resemble a theatrical stage or setting. Two black and white photographs depict the artist firstly with a rock tethered to his head, and then with his head entirely replaced by a nut. In a third fleeting snapshot, while caught in an act of depravity, his face appears as a grotesque. Two 'dry-erase' drawings attempt to illustrate and work through this condition in a futile attempt at diagnosis and understanding.

Marco Rios graduated in 2006 from University of California, Irvine. He has since participated in the 2008 California Biennial, and was included in *Phantom Sightings*, a traveling group exhibition at LACMA; *Mixed Signals*, a traveling exhibition organized by ICI; and *This is Killing Me*, a group exhibition at MASS MoCA. *Death's Boutique*, a forthcoming commission with Kara Tanaka, will open at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco this month. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

Simon Preston Gallery is located at 301 Broome Street between Forsyth and Eldridge Streets. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11am to 6m. The nearest subway stops are Grand Street on the B/D lines and Delancey Street on the F/J/M/Z lines. For more information please contact office@simonprestongallery.com or call the gallery on 212- 431-1105.
