

R E Y N O L D S G A L L E R Y

For Immediate Release

TONGUE IN CHEEK

John Baldessari
E.V. Day
Dean Fleischer-Camp
Jeff Koons
Marman + Borins
Thu Tran

June 5 – July 17, 2015

Opening Reception
Friday, June 5
7 – 9 pm



Marman + Borins, *Google 2.0*, 2010, acrylic, powder-coated steel
electronic & kinetic components, custom software, 12 x 27 x 3.5 inches
Ed. 5, Courtesy of the artists & Cristin Tierney Gallery, NY

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce *Tongue In Cheek*, a group exhibition based on the theme of humor. Artists included in the exhibition are John Baldessari, E.V. Day, Dean Fleischer-Camp, Jeff Koons, Marman + Borins, and Thu Tran. The exhibition opens with a reception on Friday, June 5 and continues through July 17, 2015.

Humor can be serious business, especially in the contemporary art world. As art proves an effective means for social critique, catharsis, and entertainment, the role of humor in contemporary art varies from satire and irony to slapstick jokes, irreverence, and absurdity. *Tongue In Cheek* is a diverse exhibition in the range of comedies presented as well as artistic media, including print editions, sculptures, video projections, an interactive installation, Barbie dolls, and even porcelain plates. The artists are also a mixed group; Baldessari and Koons are both blue-chip contemporary art leaders who have had held retrospectives at major museums worldwide, while EV Day and Marman + Borins are young but well-established and challenging artists. Dean Fleischer-Camp and Thu Tran are emerging artists whose practices focus on digital media, video, and ephemera. We are proud to present this eclectic, off-the-wall exhibition.

John Baldessari is one of the most important American conceptual artists living today and has been a major influence as an educator and artist. His work typically involves a great sense of wit, and he provides the viewer with narrative and visual challenges through juxtaposition of material, form, and text. Baldessari plays with the traditional expectations of the function of images, and involves his viewers in the conscious process of observation and problem solving. Baldessari received his BA and MA from San Diego State College, and he now lives and works in Santa Monica, California. His works has been the subject of over 200 solo exhibitions and 1,000 group exhibitions in the United States and Europe. A major retrospective, *John Baldessari: Pure Beauty*, traveled in 2009-2011 to the Tate Modern, London; Museu

d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Spain; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Baldessari's work is in major collections world wide, including Museum of Modern Art and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Collection, London; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California. He has been awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement from the Venice Biennale, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Distinguished Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement from the College Art Association, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York.

E.V. Day is known for her use of unconventional materials in creating sculptures and large-scale installations that question social stereotypes and gender roles. Through the years, she has used party dresses, thongs, bridal gowns, and even costumes from the Metropolitan Opera House to create three dimensional abstractions that function as spatial drawings. The works included in *Tongue in Cheek* are mummified Barbie dolls, which hint at satirical questions about standards of beauty and femininity in American material culture. She explains, "I'm responding to things as I relate to the world. I grew up around a lot of superficial beauty, some of which I found humorous – you just can't believe it because it's so packaged." Day received her MFA in sculpture from Yale University, and she was included in the 2000 Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial. She is the recipient of numerous grants and residencies from the Versailles Foundation Munn Artists Program at Claude Monet's Garden; ArtPace San Antonio; New York Foundation for the Arts; Dieu Donne Paper Mill and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Day's work is in important collections including the Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art, all, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; The National Museum of Women in the Arts; the New Museum of Contemporary Art, the New York Public Library, the Saatchi Collection, the Lever House, and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Dean Fleischer-Camp will include a hilarious video called *Smile* in which he pretends to take photographs of friends and family, but really videos their preparations and modeling for the photos in addition to limited editions of his faux inspirational posters Top Posters & Prints. Fleischer-Camp was born in Bethesda, MD in 1984. He completed a BFA with honors at New York University's Kanbar Institute of Film and Television in 2006. His first film, *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On* (2011) premiered to acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival and went on to win top honors at festivals around the world. It simultaneously became an internet sensation, garnering over 25 million views on YouTube. His first picture book, *Things About Me*, written with his wife, actress Jenny Slate, and illustrated with Georgia-based oil painter Amy Lind, became a New York Times Bestseller. More recently, Fleischer-Camp directed the "darkly funny, strangely touching" (Entertainment Weekly) documentary series *Brody Stevens: Enjoy It!* for Comedy Central. Earlier this year, he launched Top Posters & Prints, a line of hyper-generic wall posters that were featured on *Filmmaker Magazine*, *Vice*, and in *TIME Magazine*. Fleischer-Camp lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

Jeff Koons is a neo-Pop artist whose practice has focused on consumerism, mass culture, and industrial fabrication for over 35 years. Koons's often controversial but wildly popular art engages the history of the readymade in modern art while also taking an irreverent and playful approach to the conventions of art history and the marketplace. *Tongue In Cheek* will include two Koons editions; one a large inflatable plastic flower and the other a porcelain vase shaped like a rocking horse head. Koons studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1976. Koons held his first solo show in 1980 at the New Museum in New York, and recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples; Serpentine Gallery, London; Scottish National Gallery of Modern art, Edinburgh; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo; Château de Versailles, France; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. In 2014, the Whitney Museum of American Art held a large-scale retrospective that nearly filled the entire museum. His work is in major collections worldwide including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Tate Gallery, London; and the Museum of Modern Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Whitney, all, New York.

Marman + Borins is the Toronto-based artistic partnership of Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins. Marman + Borins often express their interest in paradox and deconstruction by means of irony, cynical humor and ambiguity. Their installation piece, *Google 2.0* is an interactive installation in which two large googly eyes follow the viewer around the room. They have created sculpture, installations, and media art together since 2000. Marman is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario; Borins is a graduate of McGill University; and both received degrees from the Ontario College of Art and Design. They have exhibited their work at the Toronto International Art Fair, Ontario; Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Alberta; Volta 7, Basel Switzerland; Art Santa Fe, New Mexico; Tierney Gardarin Gallery and James Cohan Gallery, both, New York. They have received awards from Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Steam Whistle Arts Awards, and the Dumaurier Arts Council. Marman + Borins have work in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa; Art Gallery of Ontario, the University of Toronto, the City of Toronto, and the Schulich School of Business at York University, all, Toronto, Ontario.

Thu Tran's work involves surreal humor, folk art, and commentary on food. For *Tongue in Cheek*, she will exhibit a video projection of an exploding ice cream cone, originally commissioned by the Cleveland Institute of Art, and a set of porcelain plates. Tran explains that "Food is a great equalizer. When you're cooking, you get a better sense of who people are by what they eat." Tran is a visual artist originally from Cleveland and based in New York. She is co-creator and host of psychedelic cooking series *Food Party* for IFC and *Late Night Munchies* for MTV. She has been blowing glass for 12 years, currently for Michiko Sakano Glass. She has held residencies for installation art at The Clocktower Gallery, Bemis Center, SPACES Cleveland, and Art Farm Nebraska, and often collaborates with Babycastles on indie video game installations and workshops.

###