

FRED TORRES COLLABORATIONS

Please join us for an artist talk with **David LaChapelle**
At the **WeWork Lounge in SoHo** - Friday, Feb. 24th at 6:30pm
Tickets will be \$10 at the door - first come, first serve
*All proceeds to benefit **Smile Train***



David LaChapelle, *Wilting Gossip*, Chromogenic Print, 2011

WeWork - SoHo/Nolita
154 Grand St. (at Lafayette)
New York, NY 10013

Artist **David LaChapelle** will give a talk on his work **Friday, February 24th at 6:30** in the evening.

About David LaChapelle

Born in 1963 in Fairfield, Connecticut, David LaChapelle is an American photographer living and working in Los Angeles and Hawaii.

He is internationally acclaimed for his powerful photographs combining a unique hyper-realistic aesthetic with profound social messages.

LaChapelle was trained in fine art at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as well as the Art Students League and the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

LaChapelle's photography career began in the 1980's when he began showing his artwork in New York City galleries. His work caught the eye of Andy Warhol, who offered him his first job as a photographer at Interview Magazine. Not before long, his visual talent became highly sought after by top editorial publications for which he created some of the most memorable advertising campaigns of his generation.

LaChapelle's striking images have graced the covers and pages of Italian Vogue, French Vogue, Vanity Fair, GQ, Rolling Stone and i-D. He has photographed personalities as diverse as Angelina Jolie, Alexander McQueen, Philip Johnson, Lance Armstrong, Pamela Anderson, Uma Thurman, Elizabeth Taylor, David Beckham, Elton John, Jeff Koons, Leonardo DiCaprio, Hillary Clinton, Muhammad Ali, and Britney Spears, to name a few.

After establishing himself as a fixture in contemporary photography, LaChapelle decided to branch out and direct music videos, live theatrical events, and documentary films. His directing credits include music videos for artists such as Christina Aguilera, Moby, Jennifer Lopez, Britney Spears, The Vines and No Doubt. His stage work includes Elton John's The Red Piano and the Caesar's Palace spectacular he designed and directed in 2004. His burgeoning interest in film led him to make the short documentary Krumped, an award-winner at Sundance from which he developed RIZE, the feature film acquired for worldwide distribution by Lion's Gate Films. The film was released in the US and internationally in the summer of 2005 to huge critical acclaim, and was chosen to open the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City.

In 2006, LaChapelle decided to minimize his participation in commercial photography, and return to his roots by focusing on fine art photography. Since then, he has been the subject of exhibitions in both commercial galleries and leading public institutions around the world. He has had record-breaking solo museum exhibitions at the Barbican Museum, London (2002), Palazzo Reale, Milan (2007), Museo del Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City (2009), the Musee de La Monnaie, Paris (2009), the Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei, Taiwan and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel. In 2011, he has had a major exhibition of new work at The Lever House, New York and retrospectives at the Museo Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico (through March 2012), the Hangaram Design Museum in Seoul and Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague.

The galleries that have exhibited his work include Tony Shafrazi and Paul Kasmin galleries in New York, Robilant + Voena in London, Alain Noirhomme Gallery in Brussels, Galerie Thomas, Munich and de Sarthe, Hong Kong. In 2012, LaChapelle is breaking new ground in his own career by showing an exhibition titled "Earth Laughs in Flowers" in four different galleries simultaneously: Reformierte Dorfkirche in St. Moritz, branches of Robilant + Voena in London and Milan, and Fred Torres Collaborations in New York.

David LaChapelle continues to be inspired by everything from art history and street culture, to the Hawaiian jungle in which he lives, projecting an image of twenty-first century pop culture through his work that is both loving and critical.

About Smile Train

Smile Train's mission is to provide a child born with a cleft the same opportunities in life as a child born without. They provide free cleft surgery to hundreds of thousands of poor children in developing countries; train doctors and medical professionals in over 80 countries; treat the "whole child" with comprehensive, total rehabilitative care including: speech therapy, general

dentistry and orthodontics. Unlike many charities that do many different things, Smile Train's mission is focused on solving a single problem: cleft lip and cleft palate. Clefts are a major problem in developing countries where there are millions of children who are suffering with unrepaired clefts. Most cannot eat or speak properly. Aren't allowed to attend school or hold a job. And face very difficult lives filled with shame and isolation, pain and heartache. Their clefts usually go untreated because they are poor – too poor to pay for a simple surgery that has been around for decades. The good news is every single child with a cleft can be helped with surgery that costs as little as \$250. For more information, please visit www.smiletrain.org.

About WeWork

WeWork creates environments that support creativity, collaboration and innovation. In addition to satisfying our members' practical needs, we empower and inspire them to grow - personally and financially. WeWork has grown from a concept in late 2009 to six locations and nearly 2000 members in early 2012. But our hunger for building great spaces and connecting interesting people hasn't yet begun to be satisfied. We are just getting started. For more information, please visit www.wework.com.

Earth Laughs in Flowers will be on view at Fred Torres Collaborations from February 23rd through March 24th, Monday - Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For more information, please contact Yana Balson by email at director@fredtorres.com or by phone at 212.244.5074.