

MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

DAVID LACHAPELLE
Earth Laughs in Flowers

Exhibition from August 5 to September 12, 2011
Opening on August 5, from 4.00 pm to 10. 00 pm

MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

Kustlaan 124-126

B-1000 Bruxelles

T. +32 (0) 473977236 F. + 32 (0) 50 62 10 58

Email : serge@sergemarvani.com

www.alain-noirhomme.com

DAVID LACHAPELLE « Earth Laughs in Flowers »

Exhibition from August 5 to September 12, 2011

David LaChapelle (Born in 1963, in Connecticut) is known for his over-the-top, unconventional portraits of famous people such as Angelina Jolie, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Moss and Lady Gaga. Since the 1990s he has been staging images celebrate himself rather than the stars in a colorful juxtaposition of patterns and objects. His immediately recognizable handwriting is a characteristic that is both challenging and inviting here. Perhaps also because LaChapelle has followed the premise of his first employer – none other than Andy Warhol: you can do whatever you want, so long as the people look good.

(2008–2011) These ten large-format photographs are LaChapelle's most recent works and this exhibition is their first public showing. The title quotes from the poem *Hamatreya*, by the American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882), in which flowers are the earth's laughter at the arrogant attitude of human beings, who believe they can own the earth even though they are transient and must return to it. LaChapelle pairs the literary treatment of vanity with the genre of the still life, which has always been an expression of life's transience. Damaged objects, things that decay, like fruit and flowers, symbolize finiteness. Precious objects stand for superficial desires. In keeping with the Christian virtues we can understand still lifes as warnings, but also, in the sense of the Baroque, as the feast of life before it is over. LaChapelle allows a glimpse of both. The stages of life appear as seasons in *Springtime*, *Late Summer*, *Early Fall* and *Deathless Winter*. The blooming and withering of physical lust is portrayed with some irony in *The Lovers* with sex dolls, bananas and luxuriant red flowers.

Nothing bores him more than good taste in art and photography. LaChapelle confronts us with exuberant compositions that are not merely extravagant. We also ask ourselves whether the flowers were actually arranged in this way. In his previous work it was very important to LaChapelle that the depicted scenes actually happened. This time he leaves open how and where his motifs come about. The works are easily understood despite this, as in *America*, an obvious comment on current political events: toy planes, burning American flags and balloons saying "Good Luck" and "Get Well." Here probably lies the reason for David LaChapelle's use of well-known art-historical visual formulas – as he did in 2003 with a fashion campaign as a reinterpretation of scenes from the life of Jesus: *Jesus Is My Homeboy*. The easily decipherable appropriation corresponds to his understanding of pop art as one that speaks to as many people as possible and encourages them to look without scaring them off.

MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

David LaChapelle
America, Los Angeles, CA, 2008-2011
c-print mounted on dibond



MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

David LaChapelle
Risk, Los Angeles, CA, 2008-2011
c-print mounted on dibond



MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

David LaChapelle
Flaccid Passion, Los Angeles, CA, 2008-2011
c-print mounted on dibond



MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

David LaChapelle

1963 Born in Farmington, Connecticut

2011 Lives in Hana, Maui

2011 Works in Los Angeles

Selected Solo Gallery Exhibitions

2011

"Earth Laughs in Flowers", Maruani & Noirhomme Gallery, Knokke

"The Raft", De Sarthe Fine Art, Hong Kong

"David LaChapelle", Galería Leyendecker, Tenerife

2010

"American Jesus", Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York

"The Rape of Africa", Robilant + Voena, London

"Eden", Alain Noirhomme Gallery, Brussels

"Cars + Money", Wolfgang Roth + Partners, Miami

2009

"American Jesus", Sebastian Guinness Galler, Dublin

"The Rape of Africa", David Desanctis Gallery, Los Angeles

"The Rape of Africa", Galerie Alex Daniels, Amsterdam

"Jesus is My Homeboy", Wolfgang Roth + Partners, Miami

2008

"Jesus is My Homeboy", Robilant + Voena, London

"Auguries of Innocence", Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York

"Jesus is My Homeboy", TEFAF, Maastricht

2007

"Awakened", Galería Leyendecker, Tenerife

"David LaChapelle", Galerie Delphine Pastor, Monaco

MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

"Awakened", Goss Gallery, Dallas

"Awakened", Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York

"Heaven to Hell", Jablonka Galerie, Berlin

2006

"David LaChapelle", La Galerie Du XX, Paris, in collaboration with Maruani & Noirhomme Gallery, Knokke

2005

"David LaChapelle", Goss Gallery, Dallas

"David LaChapelle", Galerie Alex Daniel, Amsterdam

"David LaChapelle", Maruani & Noirhomme Gallery, Knokke

"Artists + Prostitutes", Deitch Projects, New York

2003

"David LaChapelle", Moscow Photo Festival, Moscow

2002

"All American", Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York

2001

"David LaChapelle", Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan

"Fish Stick", Camerawork Gallery, Berlin

"David LaChapelle", Photology (Villa Impero), Bologna

"David LaChapelle", Baldwin Gallery, Aspen

2000

"David LaChapelle", Fahey Klein Gallery, Los Angeles

Selected Solo Museum and Public Exhibitions

2012

"David LaChapelle", Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

2011

"David Lachapelle", Kestner-Gesellschaft, Hanover

MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

"From Darkness to Light", Lever House, New York
Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico
Hanagram Design Museum, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul

2010

"David LaChapelle: Post Modern Pop Photography", The Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv
"Bliss Amongst Chaos", (Maybach Foundation Collaboration), St. Moritz Art Masters, St. Moritz
"David LaChapelle", MOCA, Taipei

2009

"Delirium of Reason", Museo De Las Artes , Guadalajara
"Rétrospective", Musée de la Monnaie de Paris, Paris
"Delirium of Reason", Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico

2008

"Jesus is my Homeboy", St. Moritz Art Masters, St. Moritz
"David LaChapelle", Forte Belvedere, Florence
"David LaChapelle", Fotografiska Museet, Stockholm
"Heaven to Hell / Bellezas y Desastres", MUBE Museum, São Paulo
"David LaChapelle", Palazzo Reale, Milan

2007

"Heaven to Hell / Bellezas y Desastres", MALBA Museum, Buenos Aires
"Men, War, + Peace", Helmut Newton Foundation, Berlin

2006

"VIP: Very Important Portraits", Museo di Capodimonte, Naples

2005

"David LaChapelle, KALS'ART, Palermo

2003

"All American", Rockefeller Center, New York

MARUANI & NOIRHOMME GALLERY

2002

"David LaChapelle", Barbican Museum, London

"David LaChapelle" Kunsthaus Wien, Vienna

2000

"Femmes Plus Que Femmes", Museo de Arte Brasileira, São Paulo

1999

"20th Festival de la Mode", Galeries Lafayette, Paris

"Hotel LaChapelle", Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome

"The Beautiful + Bizarre", School of Visual Arts, New York

1998

"David LaChapelle", Palacio Pombal, Lisbon

"LaChapelle Land", Les Rencontres D'Arles, Arles

Public Collections

Daimler Art Collection, Stuttgart

La Monnaie de Paris, Paris

LVMH Foundation, Paris

Brandhorst Foundation, Munich