

OTIS

Otis College of Art and Design
9045 Lincoln Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90045
Telephone 310 665 6800 Website www.otis.edu



PRESS CONTACT: Kathy MacPherson (310) 665.6909 kmacpherson@otis.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Otis College of Art and Design to Present Exhibition
Todd Schorr: Designed for Extinction
Solo Exhibition of Recent Work by Prominent Pop Surrealist Painter Todd Schorr

LOS ANGELES – March 25, 2010 – **Otis College of Art and Design** is pleased to present the exhibition ***Todd Schorr: Designed for Extinction***, to be held June 26 through September 11, 2010 at **Ben Maltz Gallery**. A public opening reception takes place Saturday June 26, 4-7pm, sponsored by **Hurley**, featuring music by **GLUE ONE**. A limited edition Hurley t-shirt designed by Schorr is available for purchase one night only, and Schorr conducts a book-signing of his recent monograph ***American Surreal*** published and presented by **Last Gasp Books** during the reception. **Otis Continuing Education** is offering exhibition-related, art-making workshops for kids and families during the exhibition July 10, 31, and August 21, 10am-12pm. The gallery hosts a conversation with Schorr and Curator Meg Linton on Saturday, September 11 at 3pm.

Todd Schorr: Designed for Extinction is a solo exhibition featuring 50+ paintings and preliminary drawings from the last ten years by Los Angeles-based artist **Todd Schorr**, a leading figure in the Pop Surrealism and Lowbrow art movements. Schorr is undeniably inspired by Renaissance masters such as Hieronymus Bosch, Pieter Bruegel, and Salvador Dali, as well as the early animated cartoons of Walt Disney and Max Fleischer, underground comics best exemplified by *Zap*, and classic films from the 1930's such as *King Kong* and *Frankenstein*. Using the exacting techniques of the old masters, his highly polished, fantastic paintings are intricate narratives about evolution and the plight of man. Schorr says: "Like any artist of worth, it took many long years of struggle and investigative thought along with trial and error as well as constant honing of technique to reach the point where I felt I had created a language which, when spoken well, would command some semblance of purpose. I work in what is best described as a surreal style but filtered through the mind and eyes of what is, for better or worse, uniquely American."

Biography

Todd Schorr was born 1954 in New York City and grew up in Oakland, New Jersey. Playing in bands in the late 1960's and early 1970's, Todd fell under the spell of the psychedelic concert posters coming out of San Francisco and underground comics. While visiting the Uffizi gallery in Italy on a trip to Europe in the summer of 1970, Schorr began to formulate his idea of combining his love of cartoons with the painting techniques of the old masters. In 1972 he entered the Philadelphia College of Art (now the University of The Arts) wanting to be a painter but advised to pursue illustration. Schorr began getting professional illustration work while still in college, and soon after graduating in 1976, he moved to New York City where he provided work for projects including album covers for AC/DC, movie posters for George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola, and covers for Time magazine that now reside in the permanent collection of the **Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery** in Washington, DC.

By 1985 Schorr began making a concentrated effort to break away from illustration and into fine art. He was invited to show work in the 1986 landmark exhibition *American Pop Culture Images Today* at the Laforet Museum in Tokyo, Japan, along with notable artists Robert Williams, Suzanne Williams, Neon Park, Bob Zoell, Georganne Deen, Mark Mothersbaugh, and Gary Panter, and his wife Kathy Staico-Schorr, which in large part galvanized the "Lowbrow" and Pop Surrealism movements. In 1992 Schorr had his first solo exhibition at the Tamara Bane gallery in New York. Schorr and his wife relocated to Los Angeles in 1998. The so-called "Lowbrow" art movement that he and his contemporaries helped form almost 25 years ago is now a global phenomenon. In 2008 Schorr's work was shown at the Laguna Art Museum as part of In the *Land of Retinal Delights: The Juxtapoz School*, and in a solo exhibition at the San Jose Museum of Art in 2009. Schorr's work has been featured in *Juxtapoz*, *Dangerous Ink*, and in the documentary film, *The Treasures of Long Gone John*. Schorr's most recent monographs are *Dreamland*, 2004, and *American Surreal*, 2009, published by Last Gasp Press. Schorr currently lives and works in Los Angeles with his wife, artist Kathy Staico-Schorr. Artist's website www.toddschorr.com

Additional information on *Todd Schorr: Designed for Extinction* is available online at www.otis.edu/benmaltzgaller or by calling (310) 665-6905. For reservations and information on the **Continuing Education Family Workshops** please call the Otis Continuing Education Department at (310) 665-6850. Each workshop is designed and taught by students in the Artists, Community, and Teaching Program (ACT) at Otis, and take place on three consecutive Saturdays July 10, 31, and August 21, 10am-12pm.

Location: Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking & Admission: Free. Visitor parking in structure on La Tijera.

Hours: Tue-Sat 10am-5pm / Thu 10am-7pm. Closed Sunday, Monday and Feb 13.

Gallery Tours: 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups

Gallery Info: 310.665.6905, gallerinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery

About Otis: Founded in Los Angeles in 1918, Otis College of Art and Design prepares diverse students of art and design to enrich the world through their creativity, their skill, and their vision. The College offers an interdisciplinary education for 1200 full-time students, awarding BFA degrees in Advertising, Architecture/Landscape/Interiors, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Illustration, Graphic Design, Product Design, Painting, Photography, Sculpture/New Genres, and Toy Design; and MFA degrees in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Public Practice, and Writing. Continuing Education offers certificate programs as well as personal and professional development courses. Additional information is available at <http://www.otis.edu>.



L-R: *In the Valley of Finks and Weirdos*, 2003; *The Ovoid Ape*, 2007; *The Spectre of Monster Appeal*, 2000
First page: *Ape Worship*, 2007

###