

PAUL KASMIN GALLERY



Incarnation (#100), 2009, oil on panel
72 x 48 inches; 182.9 x 121.9 cm

MARK RYDEN

The Gay 90's: Old Tyme Art Show

April 29 – June 5, 2010

Private View, April 29th, 5-8pm

Paul Kasmin Gallery is pleased to announce *The Gay 90's: Old Tyme Art Show*, an exhibition of new paintings and works on paper by the Los Angeles artist Mark Ryden. On view at 293 Tenth Avenue from April 29 to June 5, 2010, this will be Ryden's first significant solo show in New York since 2003, as well as his first with the gallery.

In his hauntingly beautiful and masterfully executed oil paintings, Ryden creates his own contemporary mythologies whose archetypes include fairy tale creatures, historical figures, and pop cultural icons. Seamlessly juxtaposing macabre motifs like meat grinders and disembodied presidents with eye-pleasing ingénues and seductive landscapes, the artist produces a vision of society in which menace and comfort are inseparably interwoven. These labor-intensive canvasses deftly rework centuries of art history, combining the grandeur of Spanish and Italian religious painting with the decorative richness of Old Master compositions and the lush textures of French Neo-Classicism.

The central theme of *The Gay 90s: Old Tyme Art Show* references the idealism of the 1890s while addressing the role of kitsch and nostalgia in our current culture. "In the modern era, sentimentality and beauty have been disdained in the art world," he explains. "This new work explores the line between attraction and repulsion to kitsch, and between beauty and banality." Through their visual richness and symbolic complexity, Ryden's infinitely suggestive dreamscapes invite us to enter their world and to indulge our sense of wonder.

Mark Ryden was born in Medford, Oregon and received his BFA from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena in 1987. Recent exhibitions include a mid-career retrospective *Wondertoone!* at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle and the Pasadena Museum of California Art (2004-2005); *The Snow Yak* at Tomio Koyama Gallery in Japan (2009); *Tree Show* at Michael Kohn Gallery in Los Angeles (2007); *Bunnies and Bees* at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana, CA (2002); *Amalgamation* at the Outre Gallery in Melbourne, Australia (2001); and *The Meat Show* at the Mendenhall Gallery in Pasadena (1998). He currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

For more information, please contact Clara Ha: Claraha@paulkasmingallery.com
For press inquiries or image requests, please contact Mark Markin: Mark@paulkasmingallery.com

293 TENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001
TEL 212 563 4474 FAX 212 563 4494
www.paulkasmingallery.com