

**CAC MÁLAGA PRESENTS INAUGURAL
MARK RYDEN SOLO EXHIBITION IN EUROPE
16 December 2016 – 5 March 2017**

The Centro de Arte Contemporáneo of Málaga presents the first-ever European retrospective featuring a selection of Mark Ryden's most iconic works, from December 16, 2016 – March 5, 2017. Curated by Fernando Francés, Cámara de las maravillas the show includes small and large-format canvases, drawings, dioramas and several sculptures, which together summarise and provide an insight into the complex universe of the "godfather of Pop Surrealism." In Mark Ryden's own words, this will be one of the most important exhibitions in his career.

The world of Mark Ryden (born in Oregon, USA, 1963) is synthesized by a nostalgic sweetness tinged with darker, more complex psychic material that lies beneath the surface of cultural clichés. Populated by President Lincoln, Jesus Christ, Buddha, Father Christmas, and the devil, his work features mysterious archetypal characters that are confronted by childlike figures with enormous soulful eyes. These sweet yet disturbing protagonists appear to read the thoughts of the observer, who at first shies away from such audacity but is ultimately captured, unable to break away from their compelling gaze.

In his early career, Ryden became known for painting numerous album covers, including Michal Jackson's "Dangerous." His designs for sets and costumes in "Whipped Cream," a production of the American Ballet Theater, will debut in Spring 2017 at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House. Ryden's paintings have been exhibited in museums and galleries all over the world, but the display at the CAC Málaga will be his first solo museum show in Europe.