

## Cary Leibowitz

*I Love Warhol Piss Paintings*

February 14–March 31, 2007



Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to present new paintings and multiples by Cary Leibowitz. In his exhibition, *I Love Warhol Piss Paintings*, Leibowitz's signature self-effacing humor and art historical references take the form of hand-made, low-tech paintings and mass-produced editions.

Leibowitz has shown extensively since the 1980s, often under the moniker Candyass. Well known for his multiples, which have taken the form of coffee mugs, Frisbees, footballs, clothing, plates, car window screens, and trash cans, Leibowitz's deadpan humor and cultural references take on identity and persona with bravado and visual impact. Popular culture collides with high culture, Jewish identity translates to kitsch, Queer political sloganeering becomes camp faggotry. His tragicomic artworks poke fun at art history, adolescent angst, fame, and cultural and religious stereotypes, blending aspects of Modernism, Pop, Multiculturalism, design culture and consumer advertising.

In his exhibition at Alexander Gray Associates, Leibowitz presents new paintings on wood, with works referencing Post-War American art. *Happy Rainbow, Sad Rainbow* is a diptych that enhances Frank Stella's 1970s work with psychological humor, questioning identity politic branding and art market taste; *I Love Warhol Piss Paintings* turns Leibowitz's admiration for Warhol's overlooked late work into a graffiti-like signage. *I Feel Like the World is Passing Me By* animates Ellsworth Kelly forms with text and color, pushing confidently elegant Minimalism into a confessional gesture. New Candyass multiples continue Leibowitz's obsession with popular culture, Jewishness, and fine art, including ski caps emblazoned with "Fran Drescher Fan Club," "Victor Klemperer Book Club;" *I Love Warhol Piss Paintings* scarfs, chair cushions, and buttons; and appreciations for Gertrude Stein, Marcia Tucker, Cindy Sheehan, and the Museum of Modern Art.

Leibowitz's work was included in the landmark exhibitions *Too Jewish? Challenging Traditional Identities* at the Jewish Museum New York; *In a Different Light* at the University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley and *Bad Girls*, New Museum for Contemporary Art, New York. His work has also been seen in exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Contemporary Museum, Honolulu; Arcadia College, Pittsburgh; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Kunstverein für die Rhineland und Westfalen, Düsseldorf; Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art; ICA Philadelphia; Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn; Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt; Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; Phoenix Art Museum; National Gallery of Australia, Melbourne; the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT; List Visual Art Center, MIT, Cambridge; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Whitney Museum, New York. He holds a B.F.A. from the University of Kansas, and lives and works in New York City.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery and advising firm based in New York. Our exhibition program focuses on mid-career visual artists who emerged in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Through consulting and collection advising, we provide expertise and educational experiences for our individual and corporate clients. Our ultimate goal is to provide a direct experience with Modern and contemporary art that encourages discourse around art's role in the advancement of culture. Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11 AM–6 PM.