

Alexander Gray Associates

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Cary Leibowitz

Ye Olde Candyass Muggery
February 18 – March 28, 2009



Left to Right: *The Golden Girls Signing The Declaration of Independence*, Printing on ceramic, 2009; *George Washington Crossing the Delaware*, Printing on ceramic, 2009; *I Need to Start Seeing a Therapist*, Printing on ceramic, 2009

Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Cary Leibowitz. The exhibition, *Ye Olde Candyass Muggery*, consists of over 28 new multiples, taking the form of coffee mugs, wine glasses, espresso cups and highballs. Leibowitz' mass-produced multiples have been widely collected and anticipated since his first New York exhibition twenty years ago, when he began exhibiting under the moniker Candyass.

Where previous installations have taken a carnival-like atmosphere, Leibowitz' 2009 installation is more restrained in its design. The exhibition consists of mugs and other drinking vessels—objects that are both personal and social; these objects are elevated to works of art in their sculptural installation presented in the gallery. For Leibowitz, high is low, low is high; art is personal, personal is art.

Leibowitz has emblazoned these manufactured objects with highly stylized typography ranging from Sampler Stitchery to Art Deco. The "texts" commemorate and morph popular culture, gay iconography and Americana: "George Washington Redecorates Mount Vernon;" "Liza Minelli Lands on the Moon;" "The Golden Girls Signing the Declaration of Independence;" "Bette Midler Crossing the Delaware;" "Oh to Have the Confidence of Ferris Bueller and the Hips of Johnny Depp;" "Abraham Lincoln's Friend sleeps Over".

Cary Leibowitz is an obsessive collector, who believes firmly that "quantity is quality." With *Ye Olde Candyass Muggery*, Leibowitz encourages consumption of his objects; for them to be used as functional, dysfunctional, and non-functional *objet d'art*. In the spirit of accessibility and activism, prices range from \$15-\$100.

Leibowitz' 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. Since 1989, his work has also been seen in exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; 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; 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. In 2008, Printed Matter

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 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, 11:00 AM–6:00 PM.