

Cary Leibowitz: Candy Ass Carnival (circa 1990–1994)
At Art Forum Berlin

ART FORUM
BERLIN
ABOUT BEAUTY
29 SEP–3 OCT 2007



For Art Forum Berlin 2007, Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to present a solo exhibition of works by New York-based artist Cary Leibowitz. A re-creation of Leibowitz' iconic *Candy Ass Carnival* installations from the early 1990s, the booth at Art Forum Berlin amalgamates hundreds of individual artworks and multiples. In a dense salon-style hanging, low-tech paintings and mass-produced editions—including hand-painted wooden signs, ceramics, school pennants, footballs, car window screens, inflatable toys, and works on paper—showcase Leibowitz' signature humor and cultural commentary, replete with riotous color, pattern, and text.

Leibowitz' 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.

Made at the height of the Culture Wars in the early 1990s in the United States, when political activism around the AIDS crisis and attacks on freedom of expression were at the fore, the presentation at Art Forum Berlin draws attention to a cyclical view of politics, identity, and art history. Further, this time capsule exhibition reinforces Leibowitz' influence on today's emerging artists, particularly those experimenting with popular culture, Queer identity, and personal confession.

Leibowitz' work was included in the landmark 1990s exhibitions *Too Jewish? Challenging Traditional Identities* at the Jewish Museum in 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. Leibowitz lives and works in New York.

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, 11:00 AM–6:00 PM