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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2008

Catharine Clark Gallery, now at 150 Minna Street, between 3rd and New Montgomery

Solo Exhibition: Timothy Cummings: *Last Call*

Project Installations: Sandow Birk: Selections from *Ten Leading Causes of Death in America*;

Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth: *Space Station*

Video Project Room: *AfterLifers: Walking and Talking (Exten-dead Re-Communication Edit)*

by HalfLifers (Anthony Discenza and Torsten Z. Burns)

July 19 – August 23, 2008



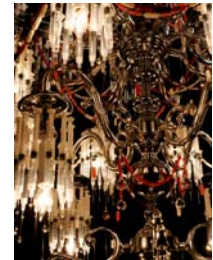
Timothy Cummings



Anthony Discenza and Torsten Z. Burns



Sandow Birk



Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth

San Francisco, CA: Catharine Clark Gallery announces the upcoming solo exhibitions of new paintings by Timothy Cummings, titled *Last Call*. *AfterLifers: Walking and Talking (Exten-dead Re-Communication Edit)*, a collaborative video project by Anthony Discenza and Torsten Z. Burns, will be featured in the Video Project Room. Selections from Sandow Birk's "Ten Leading Causes of Death" will be featured in the back gallery, along with a collaborative installation by Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth. The exhibition dates are July 19 – August 23, 2008. An opening reception for the artists is Saturday, July 19, 5 – 7pm.

Last Call has multiple connotations in **Timothy Cummings'** new body of paintings. It most commonly refers to the final opportunity to order cocktails in a bar or nightclub. For Cummings, last call is also a state of existence where the perpetual desire to nurse a drink functions as an antidote for the pain associated with a more sober experience of contemporary life. In an era of continuous bad news, Cummings argues, many dangerously choose diversion over engagement. Conversely, for Cummings, last call is a warning, rather than an opportunity for escape. Last call heeds action and rallies for change. The figures in Cummings' works appear drained of vitality, depressed. A general apathy toward life and politics is here equated with a kind of zombie-like existence. Like a zombie, or a reanimated corpse who has been brought back to life and exists without speech or free will, Cummings' signature dandy character's eyes, once engaged in an almost confrontational gaze with the viewer, are now devoid of life, his pupils replaced by opaque, hollow orbs. Like the proverbial canary warning of toxins in the coal mine, Cummings' zombie-youth admonish the viewer that without awareness and action, we may soon face a political reality that is devoid of choice, where our voices are rendered silent, and we too resemble the zombie characters of horror films. Timothy Cummings' work is included in numerous private and public collections, including the di Rosa Preserve: Art & Nature (Napa, California). He lives and works in San Francisco and has exhibited with Catharine Clark Gallery since 1994.

Anthony Discenza and **Torsten Z. Burns**, known collectively as the **HalfLifers**, have been working collaboratively since 1994. The HalfLifers exhume cinema's favorite incarnation of mindless, decaying mortality in the hopes of breathing new life into this misunderstood figure. From a panel discussion in an old TV studio to a quarantined helicopter high above California's rolling hills, these life-challenged entities walk, talk, and chew over some of the more difficult questions of this "whole linear birth-death system." Featured in the Video Project Room, *AfterLifers: Walking and Talking (Exten-dead Re-Communication Edit)*, 2004 – 2008 presents Discenza and Burns in character acting out the characteristics of zombies. Over the past 15 years, the duo's work has been screened extensively in numerous national and international venues, including The

New York Video Festival, The IMPAKT festival, ZKM, The THAW Festival, the Stuttgart Filmwinter Festival, Cinema Texas, ZKM, The Pacific Film Archive, The Headlands Center for the Arts, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New Langton Arts, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. HalfLifers are distributed by the Video Databank of Chicago. Currently, they are at work on a multi-disk survey of their past projects.

Expanding on the ideas inherent in both the presentation of Timothy Cummings' new work and in the video work of HalfLifers, Catharine Clark Gallery will also present a selection of works by two gallery artists that investigate similar themes: a selection of prints from **Sadow Birk**'s series *The Ten Leading Causes of Death* alongside a chandelier constructed from pills and hypodermic needles by **Andy Diaz Hope** and **Laurel Roth**. Each of these works similarly examine how certain behavior, generally in excess, contributes to a zombie-like existence that can lead to a general apathy towards life.

Image information. from left to right: Timothy Cummings, detail from *Untitled*, 2008; Anthony Discenza and Torsten Z. Burns, video still from *AfterLifers: Walking and Talking (Exten-dead Re-Communication Edit)*, 2008; Sadow Birk, *Accidents*, 2008; Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth, *Space Station*, 2008.

About Catharine Clark Gallery

Established in 1991, Catharine Clark Gallery presents the work of contemporary artists. A wide range of media is represented in the gallery program with an emphasis on content driven work that challenges both the traditional use of materials and formal aesthetics. It is the only San Francisco gallery to date with a video project room. Exhibitions are hosted on a 4 – 6 week schedule and generally feature one or two solo artist exhibitions, in addition to video and viewing room installations. Additionally the gallery regularly participates in national and international art fairs in Miami, New York, London, and Brussels, among other cities. Housed in a former 1920s farming equipment warehouse, newly redesigned by Los Angeles-based architectural designer Tim Campbell, the gallery is situated among numerous arts-related landmark buildings in San Francisco's Yerba Buena Neighborhood; it is adjacent to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), the Museum of the African Diaspora (MOAD), and is housed on the ground floor of the same historical building as SF Camerawork. The gallery is open Tuesday–Friday, 10:30am–5:30pm, and Saturday, 11am–5:30pm. For more information, please visit www.cclarkgallery.com or email info@cclarkgallery.com. Visit <http://cclarkgallery.blogspot.com/> for up-to-date information about exhibitions and reviews.

Advanced Exhibition Listing

July 19 – August 23, 2008

Reception Saturday, July 19, 5–7pm

Solo Exhibition: Timothy Cummings: *Last Call*

Video Room: *AfterLifers: Walking and Talking (Exten-dead Re-Communication Edit)* Anthony Discenza and Torsten Z. Burns

Project Installations: Sadow Birk: Selections from *Ten Leading Causes of Death in America*;

Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth: *Space Station*

August 30 – September 27, 2008

Opening reception Saturday, September 6

Solo Exhibition: Julie Heffernan

Video Project Room: Adam Chapman

October 4 – November 15, 2008

Concurrent Solo Exhibitions:

Ray Beldner; Nina Katchadourian

November 22 – January 3, 2009

Solo Exhibition: Josephine Taylor

Video Project Room: Kate Gilmore

January 10 – February, 2009

Concurrent Solo Exhibitions:

Jonathan Solo; John Slepian