

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Paul Ruscha's "Full Moon"
Selections from the Private Art Collection of Paul Ruscha

Extended to November 19, 2005

Book Signing: Thursday, November 10, 6 – 9 pm
During the Second Thursday Downtown Art Walk

At the PHARMAKA Gallery

101 West 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 • 213-689-7799

A Non-Profit Institution in Downtown Los Angeles' New Gallery Row District

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Saturday 12 – 6 pm
Second Thursday Downtown Art Walk:
Thursday, November 10, 12 – 9 pm

Paul Ruscha's "Full Moon" exhibits his variety of tastes in collecting art. A catalog of the show will be written by Ruscha and published by Gerhard Steidl of Steidl Verlag, Göttingen, Germany. A book-signing is scheduled on November 10th - 6 to 9pm at Pharmaka Gallery. Mr. Ruscha says about his collection: "This exhibition is compiled from the paintings, sculpture and objects that I've collected over the years. The art that is displayed shows my unrestrained eye for hoarding. I am basically a loner, but I have never felt lonely if I am not with people. I'm happy to return home to the whimsy of my collection. Of its profound meaning, however, there is little. The catalog I've written about the exhibition is about my collecting methods, about my take on my relationship to the artists and to those friends and foes who've understood the blind focus of my accumulations and have contributed to my particular penchants."

Artists in the show are: Don Bachardy, Wall Batterton, John Brandenburg, Jeff Britton, Larry Brooks, Jeff Cairns, Greg Colson, Jeff Colson, George Condo, Steve Degroodt, O. Delgado, Laddie John Dill, George Downing, Walter Foster, Fernando Garcia, Joe Goode, Shane Guffogg, George Herms, Pixie Herms, V.O. Houser, Thacher Hurd, Tim Isham, Scott Davis Jones, Stephen Kelemen, Jimmy Lehman, Dan Lutzick, Jason Mason, Petey Mazza, Tina Mion, Victor Morosoff, K. Naruse, Mel Panter, Pyle/Wyeth School, Kenneth Price, R. mirano, Edward Ruschitzka, Ed Ruscha, Eddie Ruscha, Paul Ruscha, Jim Shaw, Scott Siedman, James Wheeler, Sandra Yagi, and Lloyd Ziff.

On August 15th 1970, Ruscha produced an installation in the gallery below his studio at the Contemporary Arts Foundation in downtown Oklahoma City. Its CAF main gallery opening was titled *Dinner for Doris*. During the Viet Nam era, it was an indirect statement for the promotion of peace. Intending to bring together people in the news who were at odds with one another at that time; the celebrant hostess of the title was singer-actress Doris Day whose dinner partner was Charles Manson, as he had intended mortal harm to her son, Terry Melcher. Other guests for this event were Eldridge Cleaver and Lester Maddox, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Maria Callas, and Andy Warhol and Valerie Solanis. The tableau created was of an elegantly set dining table, surrounded by pure white toilets.

In 2005, the 35th anniversary of that installation, Ruscha reproduces this tableau, renaming it *Dinner for Dubya*. The celebrant host will be George W. Bush — his guests include Sadaam Hussein; Condoleeza Rice and Osama bin Laden; Tom Cruise and Brooke Shields; Karl Rove and Valerie Plame.

PHARMAKA is a Greek word that means to paint or an artist's colors. It also means a poison or remedy. The non-profit PHARMAKA Gallery welcomes exhibitions that might otherwise fall into the void between commercial Galleries and Museums. Respected curators and internationally acclaimed artists will be invited for curatorial collaborations.