



A Secret Affair

Selections from the Fuhrman Family Collection

Exhibition Dates: February 21 – May 16, 2015

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 21, 6-8pm

Artists Include: **Matthew Barney, Louise Bourgeois, Maurizio Cattelan, Katharina Fritsch, Robert Gober, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Subodh Gupta, David Hammons, Jim Hodges, Anish Kapoor, Jim Lambie, Ron Mueck, Juan Muñoz, Marc Quinn, Charles Ray, Thomas Schütte, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Kiki Smith, Gillian Wearing**

**Curated by Louis Grachos, with Manager of Special Projects, Director's Office, Danielle Nieciag
Organized by The Contemporary Austin**



Image Credit: Jim Hodges. Detail of *picturing: my heart*, 2004. Photo: David Regen

...The body in art becomes a mechanism for questioning our place in the world, our identities, our roles, and our relationships to others. On some level, all of the objects in A Secret Affair can be loosely categorized as meditations on the most primal and basic emotional need in life: that of human connection.¹

The FLAG Art Foundation is pleased to present **A Secret Affair: Selections from the Fuhrman Family Collection**, an exhibition of work from **FLAG Founder Glenn Fuhrman and his wife Amanda's** collection. The exhibition will be on view on FLAG's 9th and 10th floor galleries from **February 21 – May 16, 2015**.

The title of the exhibition, *A Secret Affair*, was inspired by Jim Lambie's keyhole sculpture *Secret Affair (Gold)*, 2007, and serves as a metaphor for the passion of collecting and the intimate relationship between the art object and its beholder. Consisting primarily of sculpture, the exhibition revolves around the figure, the close connection between two individuals, and absence.

¹ Heather Pensati, "The Subversive Body," in *A Secret Affair: Selections from the Fuhrman Family Collection* – Exhibition Catalogue, The Contemporary Austin, 2014, 6.

Artworks by 19 participating artists are at times playful and poignant, including: **Jim Hodges's** eerily captivating pink crystal skull, divided in two, forming a (broken) heart; **Felix Gonzalez-Torres's** poetic light strands and touching brass rings; **Louise Bourgeois's** hand-sewn couple merged at the belly; **Ron Mueck's** miniature yet monumental spooning couple; **Juan Muñoz's** wall-mounted men sharing a hearty laugh at each other's expense; **Katharina Fritsch's** fantastical octopus embodying fear, control, and helplessness; **Yinka Shonibare MBE's** headless ballerinas concealing revolvers behind their colorful skirts; and **Maurizio Cattelan's** slyly humorous pair of inverted police officers, which take on a new resonance in the wake of recent violence and protest.

The primal need to connect, with ourselves or others, and the volatile nature of intimacy, complicated by protection and imprisonment, tenderness and aggression, isolation and togetherness, are themes explored throughout the artworks in *A Secret Affair*.

A Secret Affair is curated by The Contemporary Austin's Executive Director Louis Grachos with Manager of Special Projects, Director's Office, Danielle Nieciag. This exhibition originated at the museum from May 3 – August 24, 2014. Accompanying the exhibition is a fully illustrated catalogue featuring a foreword from Louis Grachos and the essay "The Subversive Body" by Senior Curator Heather Pesanti.

About:

Glenn and Amanda Fuhrman are collectors involved with numerous museums and philanthropies. Glenn is a Trustee of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate Americas Foundation, and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia. Amanda is a Trustee of Edible Schoolyards in New York. In 2013, Glenn and Amanda sponsored the creation of the nation's largest free Wi-Fi network covering 95 city blocks in Harlem.

Louis Grachos has been the Ernest and Sarah Butler Executive Director at The Contemporary Austin since 2013, and is known for his groundbreaking curatorial work and arts administration. Previously, Grachos served as Director of Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY, from 2003-2012. Grachos has held curatorial and administrative positions at the Americas Society Visual Arts Program, New York; the Queens Museum of Art, NY; the Center for Fine Arts, Miami; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; and SITE Santa Fe. A passionate advocate for the arts, Grachos has more than thirty years of experience in the museum field supporting contemporary art. He is committed to community collaborations, with a focus on arts education and outreach programming, and consistently strives to create an artist centric institutional culture.

The FLAG Art Foundation is a non-profit contemporary arts institution, founded by art patron Glenn Fuhrman in 2008. Its objective is to encourage the appreciation of contemporary art among a diverse audience. FLAG organizes 4 to 6 exhibitions a year, each with a different curator, as well as producing public programs and catalogues. Past curators have included Chuck Close, Lisa Dennison, Eric Fischl, Prabal Gurung, Jim Hodges, Shaquille O'Neal, Linda Yablonsky, among others. To date, FLAG has hosted over 30 curated exhibitions, providing a platform over 350 international established and emerging artists.

FLAG provides a unique educational environment in which visitors can view, contemplate, and engage in active dialogue with the artworks. FLAG is also a resource that facilitates loans of contemporary artworks to museums around the world. Curators select and borrow from a variety of sources to include a wide range of work in each exhibition. An extensive database of available works is maintained and made available to curators.

We are on the 9th and 10th floors of the Chelsea Arts Tower, located in the heart of New York's art district on 25th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues. Its state-of-the-art exhibition space was designed by noted architect Richard Gluckman.

Join the conversation online and follow FLAG's Instagram (@flagartfoundation) and Twitter (@FLAGartNYC), and use the #ASecretAffair hashtag when posting.