

David Zwirner
525 West 19th Street
New York, NY 10011
tel (212) 727.2070 fax (212) 727.2072
info@davidzwirner.com
www.davidzwirner.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 21, 2004

EXHIBITION:

Happy Days are Here Again
Curated by André Schleichtriem

DATES:

Friday, June 25 – Friday July 30, 2004

SUMMER HOURS AS OF JULY 3:

Monday through Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM

THE GALLERY WILL BE CLOSED FROM AUGUST 2 - SEPTEMBER 6

Works by:

Carla Arocha
Hernan Bas
Marc Brandenburg
Ernesto Caivano
Chivas Clem
Michael Cline
Martin Eder
Keith Farquhar
Christian Flamm
Evan Gruzis
Christian Holstad
Violet Hopkins
Sergej Jensen
David Korty
Nate Lowman
Rosa Loy
Marco Maggi
Yuri Masnyj
Nick Mauss
Adam McEwen
Birgit Megerle
Paul P.
Tyson Reeder
Peter Stauss
Nicolau Vergueiro
Amelie von Wulffen
Ralf Ziervogel

David Zwirner is pleased to present the group exhibition *Happy Days are Here Again*, curated by André Schleichtriem. As curator of the Judith Rothschild Foundation Contemporary Drawings Collection, Mr. Schleichtriem surveyed the work of more than 1000 contemporary artists in the United States and abroad over the last year. This exhibition represents an international selection of mostly younger contemporary artists, many of which have never shown in New York. Alternately, some artists have been included in more established contemporary art surveys: Ernesto Caivano, Christian Holstad, and Hernan Bas were included in the 2004 Whitney Biennial; Amelie von Wulffen exhibited in the 2003 Venice Biennial, the 2004 Berlin Biennale, and is currently included in Manifesta 5.

The title for the exhibition is derived from an unabashedly utopian campaign song for Theodore Roosevelt's 1932 presidential race, composed in 1929 by Jack Yellin and Milton Ager. Contrary to the sentimentality expressed within the original song lyrics, many of the artists in the exhibition have created work that is in reaction to the current, darker days; with an on-going war in Iraq, international fears of terrorism, global environmental crises, and perennial injustice within third world countries, many younger artists have returned to a more figurative neo-romanticism to express their idiosyncratic view of the world. Sometimes dark and sometimes self-consciously oblivious, the work in this show represents how younger artists are attempting to come to terms with the challenges characteristic of the young 21st century. At the same time, this exhibition represents a selection from a new generation of artists, one that provides hope and promise for what is to come. While the work may be a symptom of a troubled world, its mere existence brings a sense of optimism that a new generation is aware.

Happy Days are Here Again exists in a series of other group exhibitions held at David Zwirner in the past: *Sampler* (1994); *Someone else with my Fingerprints* (1997); *Conceptual Photography from the 1960s and 1970s* (1998); *Video library* (1998); *I Love New York* (2001); *New York ca. 1975* (summer 2001); and *Bright Lights, Big City* (2004). With its investigation of a younger generation of art, *Happy Days are Here Again* brings the historical progression of group shows at David Zwirner up to the contemporary day. While *New York ca. 1975* grouped together artists working with diverse media in the 1970s, and *Bright Lights, Big City* examined trends in contemporary art during the 1980s, *Happy Days* looks to the new generation of artists, and proposes what we are to expect in the future.

For further information, please contact the gallery at (212) 727.2070 or visit:
www.davidzwirner.com.