

Dr. Lakra
February 25–April 23, 2011



3 Wooster Street (between Canal and Grand Streets)
Opening Reception: Thursday, February 24, 6–8pm
Press Preview: Thursday, February 24, 5–6pm

For further information and images, please contact
Emily Gaynor *Public Relations and Marketing Officer*
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Dr. Lakra, *Untitled*, 2010. Ink
on paper, 11 x 8 ½ inches.
Courtesy of the artist and
kurimanzutto, Mexico City.

January 30, 2011

The Drawing Center announces the first solo exhibition in New York by Mexican artist Dr. Lakra (b. 1972, Mexico). On view at 3 Wooster Street from February 25–April 23, 2011, *Dr. Lakra* is presented in collaboration with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston. Lakra will create a site-specific wall drawing throughout the gallery, integrating works on paper.

Using a range of source material, from anatomy textbooks to magazine pin-ups and comic strips, Lakra looks to the contemporary iconography of tattoo art and borrows a rich sense of satire from his early interest in cartooning. He also builds on Mexican art historical traditions: the great muralists are called to mind in his sweeping wall drawings, and depictions of skulls and bones recall José Guadalupe Posada's politically charged illustrations of skeletons, now widely associated with the Day of the Dead. Lakra's varied gestural and figurative styles nod toward Dada, Surrealist, and German Expressionist influences, while his subject matter—including Japanese wrestlers and African and pre-Columbian artifacts—signals an awareness of non-western traditions. For the work in his Drawing Center exhibition, Lakra uses drawing as the most immediate artistic impulse to invoke fundamental human urges like sex and violence.

Propelled to build mounting collections of things, both through the accumulation of found objects and by the persistent diaristic creation of drawings, Lakra takes an interest in creating a transformative visual overload. Drawing becomes both a permanent and elusive presence, as temporary, site-specific work is set in play with the indelible mark-making act of tattoo art. Merging representation with an invented universe, Lakra's work transcends categorization and challenges social norms.

This exhibition is curated by Assistant Curator Rachel Liebowitz.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dr. Lakra (b. Jerónimo López Ramírez, 1972, Mexico) has created murals for the 2nd Trienal Poli/Grafica de San Juan (2009) and The Centre for Contemporary Arts CCA, Glasgow (2007). He was the subject of a solo museum exhibition at the ICA Boston (2010) and a two-person exhibition with Abraham Cruzvillegas at Museo de Art Contemporáneo de Oaxaca, Mexico (2005). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions including *Martian Museum of Terrestrial Art*, Barbican Art Gallery, London (2008); *Wunderkammer: A Century of Curiosities*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2008); *Escultura Social: A New Generation of Art from Mexico City*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2007); and *Pierced Hearts and True Love; a Century of Drawings for Tattoos*, The Drawing Center (1995).

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Saturday, February 26, 2pm

Dr. Lakra and exhibition curator Rachel Liebowitz will lead an exhibition walk-through.

PUBLICATION

To accompany the exhibition, The Drawing Center will produce an edition in its *Drawing Papers* series, featuring an essay by exhibition curator Rachel Liebowitz and images of the artist's work, including the exhibition installation. Available in March 2011.

HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm (closed Sundays and Mondays).

CREDITS

Dr. Lakra is made possible in part by members of the Drawing Room, a patron circle founded to support innovative exhibitions presented by The Drawing Center: Devon Dikeou and Fernando Troya, Rhiannon Kubicka, Judith Levinson Oppenheimer, Elizabeth R. Miller and James G. Dinan, Maartje Elisabeth Oldenburg, The Speyer Family Foundation, Inc., Louisa Stude Sarofim, and Ann Tenenbaum and Thomas H. Lee.

Special thanks to Spencer Brownstone Gallery.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

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Images Available for Reproduction

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DL 1: Dr. Lakra, *Untitled*, 2010. Ink on paper, 11 x 8 ½ inches. Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.



DL 2: Dr. Lakra, *Untitled (Sketch 3)*, 2009. Ink on tracing paper, 10 5/8 x 18 9/16 inches. Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.



DL 3: Dr. Lakra, *Untitled (Sketch 19)*, 2009. Ink on paper, 10 5/8 x 8 1/8 inches. Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.



DL 4: Dr. Lakra, *Untitled (Sketch 6)*, 2009. Ink on paper, 18 1/8 x 42 1/8 inches. Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.



DL 5: Dr. Lakra, *Untitled (Sketch 15)*, 2009. Ink on paper, 18 11/16 x 8 7/8 inches. Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.



DL 6: Dr. Lakra, *Untitled (Sketch 5)*, 2009. Ink on tracing paper. 18 1/8 x 42 1/8 inches. Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.