

## **The Contemporary Arts Center Announces 'Jimmy Baker: Remote Viewing' *Featuring All New Work from the Artist***

Cincinnati, OH—The Contemporary Arts Center (CAC), one of the nation's oldest and most celebrated contemporary art institutions, is proud to announce the opening of *Jimmy Baker: Remote Viewing*. This is the first solo museum show for the Cincinnati-based artist and it is comprised of all new paintings. *Jimmy Baker: Remote Viewing* opens with *Keith Haring: 1978-1982* and is on view from February 26 to April 10, 2011.

The work in the show combines traditional painting techniques with digital printing. The methods are used in tandem and blended beyond distinction. The seamless nature of the digital printing over the painted canvas helps to weave the two processes together, blurring the line between the different media. Much in the same way, the artist also fuses subject matter, mixing landscapes with shattered images of human figures and forms. Baker manipulates photographs pulled from various online sources such as social media, news outlets and government websites. He combines unassuming images—celebrities snapped by paparazzi and anonymous pictures of everyday life—with horrifying images of dismembered bodies and explosions photographed by soldiers. He deconstructs these images at the code level, parsing them into fragments that are then dispersed within the painting. The final work creates an uncertainty in the viewer—a confusing interplay of contrasting media, sources and subjects.

“Jimmy toys with the notion of ‘digital’ both as a process and as a subject matter. He interferes at a material level—scrambling, dissolving and then reconstructing. He melts together catastrophes, the glitz of popular culture and the mundane into one disorienting alloy image,” explains Raphaela Platow, the CAC’s Alice & Harris Weston Director and Chief Curator. “By interweaving these unrelated themes, he addresses the role context plays in our understanding of images in the all-access world of the 21st century.”

Baker's fascination with the internet as a creative resource started at a young age. As a boy, his father had developed an interest in HyperText Markup Language (HTML) coding, the programming language of web pages. As the years passed, Baker grew to rely on the internet and media-based technology to escape isolation. This early and intimate introduction to the world wide web laid the foundation for his creative process. It also informed the title of the show. The term “remote viewing” refers to a psychic method of “seeing” something that is physically hidden from view, popularized by the movie, *The Men Who Stare at Goats*. In referencing this psychic practice, Baker is commenting on contemporary society’s relationship with digital media and exploring how we interface with it. And through his unique mash-up of processes, he searches for a new chapter in the history of painting.

Born in 1980 in Dover, Ohio, Jimmy Baker received his BFA from Columbus College of Art and Design and his MFA from the University of Cincinnati. He is an adjunct instructor at the Art Academy in Cincinnati.

The Contemporary Arts Center gratefully acknowledges the support of Legg Mason Investment Counsel and ArtsWave Corporate Partner, Convergys.

## Opening Celebration

Friday, February 25, 2011

- Opening Party, free and open to the public, starts at 8pm.
- There will be an Artist Talk—featuring French street artist and 2011 TED Prize winner, JR—for CAC Members at 7pm.

JR, the internationally renowned street artist best known for his “Women are Heroes” project, will be at the CAC on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> for the opening party of *Keith Haring: 1978-1982* and *Jimmy Baker: Remote Viewing*. JR will be the featured speaker for the evening's Artist Talk, an event taking place immediately prior to the public party. During this intimate presentation, JR will tell CAC Members about being the first artist to ever win the prestigious TED Prize and about his work as an international street artist. JR's talk at the CAC brings into view Haring's legacy as a precursor to contemporary street art and provides a unique backdrop to viewing *Keith Haring: 1978-1982*. Admission to the talk is open exclusively to CAC Members, though the party afterward is free and open to the public.

[www.contemporaryartscenter.org/jr](http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org/jr)

CAC Memberships start at \$45 (seniors/students: \$25). To join, renew or upgrade: 513.345.8422 / [membership@contemporaryartscenter.org](mailto:membership@contemporaryartscenter.org)

General information: 513.345.8400 / [www.contemporaryartscenter.org](http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org)

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### About the Contemporary Arts Center

Founded in November 1939 as the Modern Art Society by three visionary women in Cincinnati, the Contemporary Arts Center was one of the first institutions in the U.S. dedicated to exhibiting the art of our time. In May 2003, the CAC relocated to its first free-standing home, the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art, designed by Zaha Hadid. Throughout its distinguished history, the CAC has earned a reputation for stimulating thought and introducing new ideas by presenting the work of diverse artists from around the world, including hundreds of now-famous artists such as Laurie Anderson, Jasper Johns, Louise Nevelson, Nam June Paik, I.M. Pei, Pablo Picasso, Robert Rauschenberg, Kara Walker and Andy Warhol. The CAC focuses on new developments in painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, performance art and new media, presenting six to 12 exhibitions and over 20 performances annually. The CAC receives ongoing support from: Fine Arts Fund; Ohio Arts Council; The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation, City of Cincinnati Arts Grant Recipient; The National Endowment for the Arts; the generous contributions and grants of individuals, corporations and other foundations; CAC memberships, facility rentals, special events and sales from the CAC Store.

The Contemporary Arts Center is located in the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art / 44 East 6th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio / 513.345.8400

Gallery hours:

Monday: 10am–9pm (FREE after 5pm)

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday-Friday: 10am–6pm

Saturday & Sunday: 11am–6pm

CAC Store hours:

Store is open during normal museum hours and Tuesday: 11am-6pm

*The museum is closed on Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.*

CAC Admission: Adults: \$7.50; Seniors (65+): \$6.50; Students w/ID: \$5.50; Children (3-13): \$4.50; Members and Children under 3: FREE

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