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EVERYTHING MUST GO

A PROJECT WITH CERÁMICA SURO GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

ORGANIZED BY JOSÉ NOÉ SURO AND EDUARDO SARABIA

EXHIBITION DATES:

JUNE 30 – JULY 29, 2011

OPENING:

THURSDAY, JUNE 30 6 – 8PM

GALLERY HOURS:

MONDAY – FRIDAY, 10 – 6PM

Everything Must Go!

Direct from Cerámica Suro in stylish Tlaquepaque comes the liquidation sale of the year: Everything Must Go!

This one-time acquisition opportunity affords the discerning consumer a cost-conscious cornucopia of finely wrought objets d'art that are as useful as they are unusual. And fortune does not stop there!

To host this unprecedented sale, we have the Casey Kaplan gallery, the only shop north of the border where a person of spirit can furnish not just a household but also a heart and a mind!

Hurry! Quantities are limited, in multiples made by eighty artists! – and priced at an unbelievably affordable level that is unlikely to recur anytime soon. Listen up, lucky people! Everything must go. Price, quality – and satisfaction – absolutely, guaranteed.

Take away foodstuffs, figurines, light fixtures, furnishings, wearables, pets, glassware, hardware, musical instruments, trinkets, even body parts and - most of all – art!

If you need it, if you want it, if you must have it now, there is never going to be a better time or place to get it. Go ahead: sweep the floor, empty the shelves, shake your wallet. Everything must go!

Grass-roots enterprise, in fact, is the bottomless spring from which the art of Everything Must Go co-organizer Eduardo Sarabia flows. A Los Angeleno who fell hard for Guadalajara and the fascinations of Mexico's black market, Sarabia's ceramic parrots, roosters and baby goats are truly a smuggler's friend, so adorable they will get your loved ones high on both the natural world and the underworld as well! Based on popular slang for healing preparations like cocaine (perico, the parrot), heroin (chiva, the goat) and marijuana (gallo, the rooster), Sarabia's lifelike exports cross borders with ease -- because they're artworks! So genius. Who wouldn't embrace such heartwarming creatures? Especially when they want so badly to be cocks of the walk in New York, just like the rest of us.

Is your home still missing a skateboard? Still? Then look no further. You will not see the equal of Adrián S. Bará's ceramic decks anywhere else. Sold by the pair – two for the price of one! – these fraternal boards rise to the skate-or-die challenge of the American dream as a match made in color-field heaven. We're stoked! Think of them as Bara's love letter to New York, where the specter of the fallen Twin Towers, the symbol of economic supremacy, calls out to citizens of the world to gather together and remember: everything must go.

To a sale like this you can bring the whole family, even the youngest, who will absolutely drool over the teething rings by Stockholm's Annika von Hausswolff. Cast in bronze, they will stand up to the toughest, the neediest, most demanding babies. Previously, von Hausswolff has made photographs attentive to the human psyche at every stage of life. Remember her babies wielding chain saws? The woman swallowing an airplane? Well, Swedish legend has it that a bronze teething ring builds character. Believe it! Scandinavians are a hearty bunch; think of those long winters and endless nights. von Hausswolff doesn't coddle. She rules. Keep the memories flooding back! Grab the brass ring. Buy one!

It wasn't nostalgia that prompted Matthew Higgs to create a ceramic cast of a vinyl record. It was unbound fetishism! A curator and artist of international repute, Higgs is also a man with a historic collection of records. When he isn't organizing shows for the nonprofit White Columns or exhibiting his own text-based work, he spins for exclusive art-world parties. His platter, however, sounds off only in the imagination. Appreciators can project any favorite song they like onto it. For Higgs, however, it evokes the promotional discs that record companies sent to DJs in the disco era. It also pays homage to the twelve-inch sculpture that the team of Fischli and Weiss included in their 1980's series of cast-rubber domestic objects. As if that did not offer enough depth of meaning, Higgs's platter also doubles as a dinner plate! Get one while you can.

Mariachis who prefer to make music rather than conjure a sound, don't despair. Have we got something for you: Mario Garcia Torres's double-necked stringed instruments! They give a cultural stereotype associated with Jalisco, the Mexican state where Cerámica Suro is located, an engaging new dimension. These custom wooden objects will provide hours of musical pleasure for the ambidextrous aficionado with short arms and long repertoires of classic wedding tunes like "Cielito Lindo." Heavenly! Smart, too.

Like many of the artists contributing to this amazing sale, Marcel Dzama has found inspiration in a twentieth-century avant-garde so forward-thinking that it did not have need of a future! Chess, for instance, played a significant role in the visionary designs of the Bauhaus and, of course, in the career of Marcel Duchamp, who pretended not to be making art when he was playing the game – of art as well as chess! Dzama's dazzling ceramic chess set – fashioned after the geometric costumes he designed for a recent film that recalled the Ballets Russes of Sergei Diaghilev (another revolutionary spirit!) – also plays into the hands of both pursuits. Masters of the game, the artist points out, strike "an intricate balance between improvisation and predetermination." Checkmate that! Go chess!

We have on hand another very special artist who holds the Duchampian idea of the readymade art object in great esteem. He is the Japanese-born, Los Angeles-based sculptor Yutaka Sone. Sone, who has created jungles and monumental excavations, has now invented Elephant Walk, a whole new game that Duchamp, a Frenchman by birth, never even thought of! A player's objective in the game, which includes a found wooden elephant, two stones from the artist's personal collection, and a crayoned instruction book of his own making, is to get all four of the elephant's feet on the rocks without letting its trunk touch them. Trust us: it's harder than it sounds! For patrons who like challenging art, this is your game! Need we add that the piece is absolutely unique? Grab it now.

For the Modernists among us, we offer Jose Davila's unmatched ceramic squares in three household-friendly sizes. A celebration of Josef Albers' abstract paintings, *Homage to the Square* – rarely accessible to consumers these days – Davila's luminous tiles make it clear that serious art can be decorative – and cheap! – and still maintain its integrity as art. Just sublime. And anything but square!

What about the family wardrobe? Is one ever complete? complex geometries (Clayton Evans) pristine white t-shirts are a closet essential, especially for those in need of a versatile cover-up that works as a dress, a robe and sleepwear – all at once! Their hangers are even more essential. Forget those wire horrors that leave clothes with impressions of their own sharp contours, instead of your shapely ones. These durable concrete hangers never go out of style!

As the sanctum of every household, the bathroom also requires personal attention. The painter Garth Weiser knows this. He has thought about it long and hard. Some toilets these days have iPod docks and bidet hoses. Weiser's have personality. And they're striking. Gone are the boring monochromes that have cast so many bathrooms into the forgettable realm of the generic. Weiser toilets are not something anyone will want to shut the door on. These bespoke thrones beckon the beautiful, the sad, the boisterous and the infirm alike to sit and meditate on their blessings while relieving themselves of worry. Glorious!

Should the door be shut after all, fear not. Our aluminum key chains by Liam Gillick, that most pragmatic of artists, will open worlds to you. Let one of these come-hither charms dangle from your pocket or purse and watch your path to the finest bars and back rooms in town clear of all obstacles to progress! Bouncers beware of patrons bearing Gillicks! Thresholds were made to cross.

Let Moris (Israel Meza Moreno) provide the welcome mat. Based in Mexico City, one of the most hospitable places in North America, Moris often enlightens his sculptures with mash-up phrases he selects from overheard speech, underground dialects, television shows and popular films. The text on his gleaming ceramic-tile mat combines dialogue from the Vietnam War movie, "Platoon," with a line from a nature program on – wait for it – the Discovery Channel! In English the words translate to: "There, outside, lives the beast and it is hungry." Whoa! Better come in! Your privacy is assured with this protective artwork by the magnificent Moris!

Speaking of hunger, let us not forget civilization's appetite for the still life. History has taught us that to be a still life, an artwork must contain a reference to food – fruit, fish, grapes, bread and such. And experience tells us that gourds painted to look exactly like apples, peaches, oranges, watermelon and pears are among Mexico's most cherished craftworks. They really famous! Well, then. Our artists have totally refreshed both genres for this straight-from-the-factory, everything-must-go sale.

Check it out: ceramic french fries by Ester Partegàs, bronze acorns by Ugo Rondinone. Talk about alchemy! Talk about transforming the everyday into the out-of-this-world! Too divine. And bananas...have we got bananas! Liz Magic Laser's bronze Chiquita hat, inspired by a recent trip to Brazil and a fascination with Carmen Miranda, comes to your table fully loaded with biting commentary as well as a brilliant bronze. Laser is not just rubbing our noses in the scent of colonialism, or peeling back layers of exploitation by people with heavy baggage. She makes it look fabulous! Try it on. It will crush you. Fabulous.

Carmen Miranda, of course, was a star of Busby Berkeley musicals, the kind of movies that insist on popcorn. Enter Pae White, who knows that no two kernels pop exactly the same way. Her ceramic representation has the universal appeal of the real thing, yet it also explodes with a gold-toothed gleam. It's the size of a human head, for heaven's sake. So Pop! "Inherently upbeat," as White puts it. It's just about the perfect artwork, a nontraditional sculpture that speaks to such traditional concerns as time, space, form and motion. Beautifully glazed inside and out, it can be yours for a song, and we don't mean "Tutti Frutti."

Naturally, it was a man who came up with a ceramic sausage, but Mike Bouchet is an artist who often links food to art. Catch him at a supermarket, and you'll probably find him browsing the meat counter. Cold cuts are a particular specialty. His tasty cast chorizos are as suggestive as they are fun to play with. This isn't the first time Bouchet has chosen sausages as his subject, but when he left a box of them to rot in a gallery at MoMA PS1 a few years ago, he cleared the room pretty fast. This time they are far more seductive. Belly up!

Rosy cheeks are always flattering, never more so when they cast a glow from Jorge Pardo's tomato lamps. An artist who regularly fuses art to architecture and design, Pardo is well known for his lighting fixtures, but now he has outdone himself. Was a tomato ever this red? Was a lamp ever this juicy? A sculpture ever more organic? Take a bushel. One will never be enough.

Too many people think of ceramic works as folk art. Forget about it! At Cerámica Suro, which provides made-to-order ceramics for hotels, restaurants and casinos worldwide, the Guadalajara art patron José Noé Suro directs a labor pool of forty-five, lifelong painters and potters dedicated to excellence in the most radical medium of our day.

They know more about clay than anyone on the planet. And José Noé Suro understands that art is not just for looking but touching and feeling and thinking as well. Eighteen years ago, he took over the family business from his father, a ceramic artist who founded it in 1951, and has since worked with over one hundred contemporary fine artists on special projects like this. To honor his father's own accomplishments, Cerámica Suro has produced one of his original hanging lampshades – just for this sale – in ten vibrant colors.

They will go fast. Act now! Everything must go!

Linda Yablonsky, New York, June 2011

For further information please contact Meaghan Kent, meaghan@caseykaplangallery.com.
Next Gallery Exhibition: BRIAN JUNGEN, September 8 – October 22, 2011

GALLERY ARTISTS: HENNING BOHL, MATTHEW BRANNON, JEFF BURTON, NATHAN CARTER, MILES COOLIDGE, JASON DODGE, TRISHA DONNELLY, GEOFFREY FARMER, PAMELA FRASER, LIAM GILICK, ANNIKA VON HAUSSWOLFF, BRIAN JUNGEN, JONATHAN MONK, MARLO PASCUAL, DIEGO PERRONE, JULIA SCHMIDT, SIMON STARLING, DAVID THORPE, GABRIEL VORMSTEIN, GARTH WEISER, JOHANNES WOHNSEIFER