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**PRESS RELEASE**

**TH!NKART EXHIBITS WORKS OF NINE WORLD ARTISTS IN  
“ART CHICAGO” AT MERCHANDISE MART APRIL 30 – MAY 3, 2010**

*Exhibit to include contemporary works of Clive Barker, William Burroughs, Michel Haas, David Gista, Dave Sheehan, François Weil, Larry Roberts, Nicolas Kennett, & Carlo LoCascio*

**CHICAGO** — Th!nkArt, an international art gallery and policy salon, presents works of nine world artists at “*Art Chicago*,” the international fair of contemporary and modern art, held at the Merchandise Mart in Downtown Chicago. Th!nkArt's exhibit features paintings and mixed media from renowned, as well as emerging artists: **Clive Barker, William Burroughs, David Gista, Dave Sheehan, François Weil, Larry Roberts, Nicolas Kennett, & Carlo LoCascio**. New works from Gista, Sheehan and Roberts will be premiered at the Fair.

“Being a part of the international art world is critical to the concept of Th!nkArt. Our goal is to create an experience which opens people’s minds to a larger world vision through a fusion of international arts and politics,” said Laurie Glenn, Gallery Director of Th!nkArt Salon. “Art Chicago provides a platform for us to be part of the world stage of art and to participate globally.”

Art Chicago 2010 will be Th!nkArt's second exhibition at the fair. In the past three years, Th!nkArt Salon has exhibited at Bridge Art Fair in London, Miami and Chicago, as well as Slick Art Fair in Paris.

**RARELY VIEWED WORKS & EXCLUSIVE DOCUMENTARY TRAILER OF CULTURAL ICON**

In August 2009, Th!nkArt presented works of William S. Burroughs as part of an international celebration marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burroughs's groundbreaking novel, *The Naked Lunch*, and featured the icon's original paintings and drawings on paper as well as an exclusive screening of footage of his turbulent life captured in the feature-length documentary: *William S. Burroughs: A Man Within* by Yony Leyser.

Most of Burroughs' art previously was only exhibited in major museums. Th!nkArt's exhibition marked the first time Burroughs' works were ever shown in Chicago for at least a decade. In addition to showcasing Burroughs' art, ThinkArt also will be screening at Art Chicago the film trailer for the only documentary film produced about Burroughs. Yony Leyser's documentary, released at *Slam Dance*, features exclusive interviews with *John Waters, Genesis P-Orridge, Laurie Anderson, Peter Weller, Iggy Pop, David Cronenberg, Gus Van Sant, James Grauerholz, and Sonic Youth*.

“A legendary nonconformist of the Beat generation, Burroughs represents the fusion of arts, culture, music and politics. He influenced the influencers as one of the seminal thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century,” said Glenn. “He is the embodiment of what we are trying to do at Th!nkArt as we fuse the concepts of art with global politics.”

**WORLD-RENOWNED ARTISTS JOIN TH!NKART**

Contemporary artist, Clive Barker, also will join Th!nkArt's exhibit at Art Chicago. England-born and Los Angeles-based, Barker makes art that stands alongside with his globally successful work as a filmmaker and author. Once asked by an interviewer what he wanted (besides his name) on his tombstone, Barker

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replied: "Imaginer." Imagination is the force that brings his work as a painter into being and the fuel that sustains the process. Exhibited in association with Bert Green Fine Art in Los Angeles and Packer Schopf Gallery in Chicago.

Barker's paintings investigate reality, sexuality, and morality with directness and intensity of emotion that transpires in the artistic traditions of the personal, the irrational, and the fantastical. "Filling the brush with something that looks so tasty you could feed off it for years, and then slapping it on canvas is an immediate emotional rush," said Barker.

International, Paris-based artist, Michel Haas, once again returns to Art Chicago with Th!nkArt Salon. His timeless paintings journey deep inside images, capturing the metamorphosis as each image is transcribed into physical form. "To paint is to enter into a process in which we have to trawl figures out of the depths of the unconscious, until they are vividly present," said Michel Haas.

#### **NEW WORKS FROM WORLD ARTISTS**

Additionally, works of noted artists David Gista, Dave Sheehan, and Larry Roberts, recently exhibited at Th!nkArt Salon in Chicago, will be on display at "Art Chicago."

In November 2009, Th!nkArt presented a timely and thought-provoking installment entitled "**War and Peace**," exhibiting new works from renowned artist, David Gista, and emerging artist, Dave Sheehan, which reflected the oppositional forces of war, the universal desire for peace, and the inherent contradictions.

Gista's works mixes his well-known burning technique with multiple mediums to explore fuzzy lines and contradictions. "By combining figurative visuals with writings from texts, a pictorial theme plays out between the visible and invisible, and the very thin line between war and peace," said Gista.

Sheehan's series of mixed-media works on canvas explore the incongruity between a virtuous child's world and an adult's cynical, competitive viewpoint. "The imagery in works for 'War & Peace' emphasizes the paradoxes in the daily violence of an anxious world and unending war," said Sheehan.

In October 2009, Th!nkArt presented "**Portals**," an exhibition premiering the works of emerging artist, Larry Roberts. Each provocative work in this series of paintings presents portals as paths or perspectives to move through each work to uncover subliminal imagery and explore the dimensions of humanity. "Images start from emotion and work their way into the subconscious. In tangible form, the images illuminate the many elements and facets of one's soul and the alternative pathless journeys of life," says Roberts.

**Th!nkArt Salon** is located at 1530 North Paulina Street (one half-block south of North Avenue), Suite F, in the Wicker Park gallery district of Chicago's near northwest side. Street parking is available; accessible via CTA Blue Line at Damen, North Avenue bus #72, and Ashland Avenue bus #9.

**Art Chicago**, the international fair of contemporary and modern art, runs Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> through Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Merchandise Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Ill. Admission is open to the public; onsite admission \$20, or \$25 multi-day pass. For more information, visit [www.artchicago.com](http://www.artchicago.com).

**Th!nkArt™** is a contemporary, French-inspired art salon featuring celebrated and emerging artists from Chicago and around the world. Th!nkArt uses an intimate gallery space and thought-provoking exhibitions, readings, and cultural programs to spark an ongoing conversation about the fundamental role that art plays in the everyday life of humanity. For more information, please visit [www.thinkartsalon.com](http://www.thinkartsalon.com).

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