

LACMA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: THE SUN AND OTHER STARS: KATY GRANNAN AND CHARLIE WHITE
ON VIEW: JULY 22–OCTOBER 14, 2012
LOCATION: BCAM, LEVEL 2

LACMA PRESENTS DUAL EXHIBITION OF CALIFORNIA-BASED PHOTOGRAPHERS KATY GRANNAN AND CHARLIE WHITE

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS TWO BODIES OF WORK EXPLORING CONCEPTS OF IDENTITY THROUGH PORTRAITURE



(IMAGE CAPTIONS ON PAGES 3 & 4)

(Los Angeles–June 6, 2012)–The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *The Sun and Other Stars: Katy Grannan and Charlie White*, marking the first major museum exhibition to display the two photographers' work in tandem. Grannan and White both employ portraiture to examine the fragility and resilience of individuality in a culture that has become increasingly enthralled by media representations of the ideal self. Through nearly seventy-five photos, as well as White's video animation and a three-channel video installation by Grannan, this exhibition examines the complexity of the human condition and of modern subjectivity in particular.

"Bringing together two disparate bodies of work by Grannan and White provides insight into how the traditional genre of portraiture is adapted to address current preoccupations," said Britt Salvesen, Curator and

Department Head of LACMA's Wallis Annenberg Photography Department. *The Sun and Other Stars: Katy Grannan and Charlie White* is the latest in a string of photography exhibitions at LACMA this year, following *Robert Adams: The Place We Live, A Retrospective Selection of Photographs; Fracture: Daido Moriyama; and Sharon Lockhart | Noa Eshkol*. Additional photography shows scheduled in 2012 include *Michael Heizer: Actual Size* and *Robert Mapplethorpe: XYZ*-a small sampling of the thousands of Mapplethorpe photographs jointly acquired by LACMA, the Getty Museum, and the Getty Research Institute last year.

Exhibition Overview

The exhibition presents Katy Grannan's *Boulevard* series, featuring an array of adult subjects plucked from the streets of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Starkly contrasting her subjects against the solarized white stucco walls of California's urban streets, Grannan draws these idiosyncratic individuals out from anonymity with uncompromising detail. In the camera's rigidly frontal perspective, the subjects' wistful gazes evoke Nathanael West's doleful vision of the Hollywood dream, highlighting the alienation that exists between reality, desire, and aspiration. The show also presents Grannan's first foray into film, a three-channel black-and-white video entitled *The Believers*. The work functions as a stage on which her female subjects-Melissa J. Weiss, Nicole Strada, and Linda Martinez-rehearse their fragmented stories of ambition and self-fashioning. The boundaries between fact and fantasy are blurred when the documentary nature of *The Believers'* mise-en-scène is choreographed into the artist's imagined narratives.

While Grannan uses portraiture to glean individuality from obscurity, Charlie White explores the homogeneity of celebrity culture through a series of deadpan photographs depicting teen girls against a gridded backdrop. Based on a professional casting call in which Caucasian, blonde adolescents aged 13-16 were invited to embody the quintessential "California Girl," White's photographs allude to the tyrannical appetite for celebrity and the popular iconography of the American teen manufactured by the media.

In addition to 48 photos-40 from the 2010 *Casting Call* project, two from 2008, and three new diptychs pairing teen models with fabricated

doppelgangers—the exhibition features White’s personal collection of mass-culture ephemera and his new animation *A Life in B Tween*, which portrays the eagerness of contemporary youth culture to live life on camera.

About the Artists

Katy Grannan was born in Arlington, Massachusetts, in 1969. She received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991, and her MFA from Yale University in 1999. Her publications include *Model American* (Aperture, 2005), *The Westerns* (Fraenkel Gallery and Salon 94, 2008), and *Boulevard* (Fraenkel Gallery and Salon 94, 2011). She lives in Berkeley, California.

Charlie White was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1972. He received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York in 1995, and his MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California, in 1999. He is an associate professor in the Roski School of Fine Arts, University of Southern California. His publications include *And Jeopardize the Integrity of the Hull* (TDM Editions, 2003), *Monsters* (PowerHouse Books, 2007), and *American Minor* (JRP|Ringier, 2009). He lives in Los Angeles.

Credit

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and made possible in part by LACMA’s Photographic Arts Council.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography—and represent Los Angeles’s uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, innovative collaborations with artists, and an ongoing Transformation project, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

Location and Contact: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | lacma.org

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: noon-8 pm; Friday: noon-9 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 11am-8 pm; closed Wednesday

General Admission: Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

Free General Admission: Members; children 17 and under; after 5 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

Images (page 1)

(Left) Katy Grannan, *Anonymous, San Francisco*, 2010/printed 2011, pigment print, 28 1/8 x 21 5/8 in. (71.4 x 54.9 cm), LACMA, purchased with funds from Photographic Arts Council, © Katy Grannan

(Center, Left) Katy Grannan, *Anonymous, Los Angeles*, 2009/printed 2011, pigment print, 28 1/8 x 21 5/8 in. (71.4 x 54.9 cm), Courtesy of the artist; Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco; Salon 94, New York, © Katy Grannan

(Right) Charlie White, *Girl Posed*, 2008/printed 2012, chromogenic print, 50 x 45 in. (1.27 x 1.14 m), Courtesy of the artist and Loock Galerie, Berlin, © Charlie White

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