



**CHARLES RAY CURATED EXHIBIT AT HILL ART FOUNDATION
TO OPEN ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2019**

***Three Christs, Sleeping Mime, and the Last Supper*
Pagan Paradise
Charles Ray and the Hill Collection**

September 28, 2019 – February 15, 2020

The Hill Art Foundation is pleased to present an exhibition of sculpture curated by artist Charles Ray, featuring Renaissance and Baroque bronzes from the Hill Collection alongside recent works by Ray. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, September 28, 2019 and will be on view through February 15, 2020 at the Hill Art Foundation, 239 Tenth Avenue.

To assemble the exhibition, Ray drew from the Hill Collection, which spans from the Renaissance to the present and includes one of the largest and most important private collections of Renaissance and Baroque bronzes in the world, as well as a significant collection of Ray's own work. The exhibition follows the Frick Collection's 2014 exhibition *Renaissance and Baroque Bronzes from the Hill Collection*, the first time that the Hills' remarkable group of statuettes by masters of the Italian, French, German, and Dutch schools were shown together. For the exhibition at the Hill Art Foundation, Ray has placed his own work in dialogue with Renaissance and Baroque bronzes. Known for precise and deliberate sculptures that interact closely with art historical themes and techniques, Ray often takes many years to produce each work.

"All of the sculptures in the exhibition have abstract formal qualities but can also depict or find equivalence to philosophical conditions of human existence," notes Ray. "The exhibition aims to illuminate the viewer's mind to both of these artistic properties."

The exhibition is divided into two parts: on the first floor, *Three Christs, Sleeping Mime, and the Last Supper*, and, upstairs, *Pagan Paradise*. Downstairs, the viewer finds two bronzes by Alessandro Algardi, *Corpus Christi* (1646) and *Christ at the Column* (c. 1631), Ray's aluminum sculpture *Mime* (2014), the gilt bronze *Cristo morto (Dead Christ)* by Antonio Susini (c. 1590-1615), the bronze *Lion Devouring a Doe* by Barthélemy Prieur (c. 1583), and Ray's sterling silver sculpture *Mountain lion attacking dog* (2018).

When the viewer ascends to the upper floor, a Pagan paradise brings the viewer both to the future and the past, encountering the bronze *Bacchic Man: Lomazzo Personifying the*

Accademia della Val di Blenio by Adriaen De Vries (1578-80), and *Golden jewelry*, a golden crab apple, half-eaten and sculpted for Ray's wife, Silvia, on loan from Ray's personal collection and on public view for the first time. The viewer ends in the Foundation's reading room, where Ray's drawing *Godflower* (2011) is framed by views of the High Line.

"This exhibition does not chart a literal Christian or Pagan story. The viewer will not find a line between heaven and hell, the earthly and the divine, but sculptural form from both the past and the present will allow the dialectical traditions of the western mind to tumble out and fill the space of both the viewer and the work. I originally conceived the show with only the downstairs in mind, but when I expanded the exhibition to include the space upstairs, an opportunity arose to allow a very personal and private sculpture that I made for my wife to be exhibited for the first and perhaps only time. It is a piece of jewelry from the common mind of our marriage. I think it works extremely well both physically and mentally with the Bacchic figure who clearly is not the Antichrist of this time or any other." – Charles Ray.

Charles Ray (born 1953) lives and works in Los Angeles. Over the past thirty-five years he has produced a precise and widely admired body of work in a variety of mediums, using both abstract and figurative forms. His work has been featured in Documenta (1992), the Venice Biennale (1993, 2003, 2013), and the Whitney Biennial (1989, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2010), and his sculptures have been the subject of two retrospectives. The first opened in 1998 at the Whitney Museum of American Art and traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. The second was held at the Kunstmuseum Basel and the Art Institute of Chicago in 2014–15.

The Hill Art Foundation

The Hill Art Foundation is a public exhibition and education space that presents rotating exhibitions and ongoing arts education programs. Opened in 2019 in a custom-built 7,700-square-foot space in New York's Chelsea neighborhood, the Foundation is free and open to the public. Exhibitions include works on loan from the Hill Collection, as well as collaborative projects with leading artists, collections, and institutions. The Foundation was founded by J. Tomilson and Janine Hill, collectors and philanthropists based in New York. The Foundation offers year-round educational programming for New York City high school students through two unique programs, Teen Curators and Teen Educators at Hill Art Foundation.

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