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Contact: Heather Darcy, (212) 331-8888 or heather@mixedgreens.com



LEAH TINARI

We Could Definitely Run for the Presidency

JANUARY 5 – FEBRUARY 10, 2007 • Opening Reception Friday, January 5, from 6 – 8 pm

Mixed Greens is thrilled to present Leah Tinari's third solo show with the gallery. In this exhibition, she will show a range of new paintings, some of which are her largest to date.

Since moving to New York in 1998, Leah Tinari has painted moments from her life, surrounded by friends and family. Each piece documents a celebration and functions as part of a festive visual diary. While the characters depicted are quite specific, the sentiments evoked by them are universally shared.

With each piece, Tinari begins with a photograph. Like most people, she tends to use her camera on the most rowdy and uplifting occasions. Parties and vacations, in particular, inspire the most exciting documentation. For anyone who has followed her work, recurring characters and places (Key West, for instance) become familiar. And, while her characters are growing up, their actions feel overwhelmingly young and playful. These are not moments of maturity, but rather scenes that evoke a sense of eternal fun, even in adulthood.

In the past, Tinari's figures floated on raw canvas or paper, creating a location-less expanse for ritual activities and shared experiences. Over time, however, she began to methodically fill the space to a point of complete saturation. For this body of work, Tinari has again let the canvas show through. Now, her characters exist in a void with abstract elements resembling poured liquid or bubbles. In this way, Tinari acknowledges both her medium and subject matter without making either so specific that they exclude multiple narratives.

Leah Tinari graduated from Rhode Island School of Design (1998) and has shown in New York City and beyond ever since. She had her first New York City solo show with Mixed Greens in 2003. Her first solo show in Chicago was with Peter Miller Gallery (2006). Other exhibition venues include the Bronx River Art Center (2006), the Bronx Academy of Art and Dance (2006), Dumbo Art Center (2004), Fishtank Gallery, Brooklyn (2003), Lombard-Freid Gallery (2002), and Gale Gates (2001). Her first international exhibition took place at a theater festival in Benevento, Italy (2005).