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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 28, 2016

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Jason Mecier and 111 Minna Gallery present...

CELEBRITY TRASH *

New Celebrity Portraits by Jason Mecier

Renown San Francisco Celebrity Mosaic Portrait Artist

May 2 - 28, 2016

111 Minna Gallery

111 Minna St., (btw'n. 2nd & New Montgomery Sts.) SF, 94105 - Montgomery St. BART

FREE and open to the Public

Gallery Hours - 7:30 am – 5:00 pm (21+)

Opening Reception: – Fri. May 6, 2016 -- 5:00 pm - late. (FREE)

Gallery Hours - 7:30 am - 5:00 pm (21+)

jasonmecier.com

****part of his Celebrity Junk Drawer ongoing series.***

Renown SF Celebrity Mosaic Portrait Artist **Jason Mecier** is presenting **CELEBRITY TRASH - New Celebrity Portraits - as part of his CELEBRITY JUNK DRAWER ongoing series.**

The exhibit runs **May 2 - 28, 2016** at **111 Minna Gallery** - 111 Minna St., (btw'n. 2nd & New Montgomery Sts.) SF, 94105 (Montgomery St. BART). **Opening Reception: Fri. May 6, 2016 - 5:00 pm - late. FREE** - Open to the Public. Gallery Hours: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm (21+) Daily.

To arrange an interview with artist JASON MECIER, or for additional info, call publicist Lawrence Helman at 415/ 661-1260.

Celebrity Trash is a new series of portraits in which pop artist **Jason Mecier** glorifies *Pop Culture Celebrities* by salvaging their junk and trash: **Pamela Anderson's** laundry; **Amy Schumer's** dental dam's and **Phyllis Diller's** anti-itch creams – just to name a few. Jason sorts and inspects each item then assembles the collected detritus into a visual kaleidoscope / scavenger hunt for his portraits.

Celebrity portraits displayed in CELEBRITY TRASH include: Pamela Anderson, Amy Schumer, Lindsay Lohan, Phyllis Diller, Amy Sedaris, Florence Henderson, Megan Mullally & Nick Offerman, Joan Van Ark, Daniel Tosh and more to be announced.

Bio - Jason Mecier

Celebrity Mosaic Portrait Artist **Jason Mecier** creates one of-a-kind outrageous mosaic portraits. He meticulously fabricates pop-culture celebrity masterpieces out of anything - from **Kevin Bacon** out of bacon, to **Honey Boo Boo** out of 25 lbs. of trash. Jason's artwork has been featured everywhere from Entertainment Weekly to The NY Times, on TV shows like *Glee*, *Rachael Ray* and *TMZ*, as well as music videos by **Pink** and **Pitbull**. His portraits are hanging in Ripley's Believe it or Not Museums, countless celebrity homes, and even in The Playboy Mansion!

This is a list of all Jason's celebrity clients who have either sent him their junk / trash, or own Jason's own artwork (not necessarily their own portrait).

Celebrity clients include: **Margaret Cho, Phyllis Diller, Rosie O'Donnell, Farrah Fawcett, Hugh Hefner, Pink, Mary-Louise Parker, Bjork, Amy Sedaris, George Lopez, Parker Posey, Ricki Lake, RuPaul, Margaret Cho, Florence Henderson, Elvira, Theresa Caputo, Karen Black, Jennifer Tilly, Eli Roth, Scissor Sisters, the Go-Go's, Morgan Fairchild, Kathy Najimy, Barbi Benton, Kate Pierson, Tura Satana, Susan Tyrrell, Stephanie Kramer, Joan Van Ark, Heidi Fleiss, Honey Boo Boo and Big Ang.**

Jason Mecier is a San Francisco artist, and maintains an art studio on Guerrero St. located in SF's Mission district. jasonmecier.com

Jason Mecier Artistic Statement:

I was originally making celebrity portraits with found objects, pretending these were the things they would have owned. Then I thought I should just ask the famous and infamous themselves to send me their junk and see what I could create. **Phyllis Diller** was the first. I received a box of her collected junk 3 weeks later! Then I thought if this is so easy, I'll ask everyone to send me what they have to send. I usually have best luck when it's a friend of a friend...or sometimes I just stalk people enough times that they relent and send me their treasures. It's really tricky because everyone expects that they should get their portrait for free, like a Rolex gift bag...but as I am a struggling working artist, it's sometimes a sticky negotiation. Many of the celebrities I have contacted thru the years have been more than generous: **Rosie O'Donnell, Margaret Cho, Parker Posey, Ricki Lake, Elvira Mistress of the Dark, Hugh Hefner** and others were happy to buy their art pieces. Other celebrities like **Amy Schumer, Amy Sederis, and Florence Henderson** loved their portraits but didn't really want a portrait of themselves, so I sent them a free framed print for their participation in my project.

Celebrity Trash is a show featuring my latest "junk portraits". Most of the art pieces are made from the subject's actual junk donated to me for their portrait. I had a huge **Pamela Anderson** collection already, and a friend gave me a bag of her laundry and misc. things leftover from her yard sale... So her portrait is made from her paraphernalia, but not directly given to me from her. Also some friends sent me a collection of stuff from **Karen Black's** estate sale...so the same story there.

Jason's artwork is featured in the new Ripley's Believe It or Not! Book, "Prepare to be Shocked!", and Taschen's Illustration "Now Portraits!" Jason portraits and mosaics have been featured as "ads" in prominent national magazines including: Skittles, Jack Links, Glad Bags, Asics, Red Vines, Wrigley's, Ford, Quaker, Albertsons, The Food Network, Neiman Marcus, Aveeno, Corona Beer, MTV, W Hotels, Rolling Stone, Showtime, Entertainment Weekly, People, Harper's, Seventeen, Nickelodeon, Cosmo Girl, Details, Soap Opera Weekly, The Advocate, The Village Voice and The NY Times.

<https://www.facebook.com/Jason-Mecier-57723348748/>

<https://twitter.com/JasonMecier>

<https://www.instagram.com/jasonmecier/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/JasonMecier>

Margaret Cho interview in *Frontiers* Sept. 17 – 30, 2016 (Features two of Jason's Portraits).

<https://www.frontiersmedia.com/featured-stories/2015/09/17/margaret-cho-welcomes-us-inside-her-personal-sanctuary/>

Video coverage of Jason Mecier and his celebrity Portraits:

JASON on CNN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9i -PAioKEc>

JASON making AMY SEDARIS' portrait: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llvQbbndTdY>

MARGARET CHO on GEORGE LOPEZ' TV show: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuLmUd9C_ik

EYE CANDY (short) - by Alexis Manya Spraic- Jason preps his red vines show (Shown SFILGBT Film Festival)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRdhQjk9NhU>

KEVIN BACON reacting to his portrait on CONAN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvs83twWk10>

LINDSAY LOHAN's Portrait in progress - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r68G5QwAlhY>

Asked to Artist Jason Mecier:

What is your art background?

Though I have no formal art training, I did have an excellent mentor in my grandmother, **Anita Tollefson**. When I was young, I remember being mesmerized by her paintings, weavings, mosaics, sculptures, collages, and stained glass work that filled my grandparents' house and yard. When Anita worked on an art project, she would set me up at a nearby table with a project of my own to work on. One of my earliest pieces, is a mosaic made from beans, noodles, rocks, and cut bamboo sticks glued on a piece of wood. My grandmother encouraged me to create masterpieces using materials readily available to me. She would rather paint on the back of her cigarette cartons than buy a canvas. I learned from her that I can make art out of anything I want to, and that there are no rules.

How did celebrity culture become your major art theme?

I don't know why, but it's always been there. As kid I remember obsessively clipping and scrap-booking pictures from the TV Guide of my favorite shows. In high school I did pencil drawings of my favorite record covers like **The Rolling Stones**, **Olivia Newton-John** and **Pat Benatar**. Later I did a series of psychedelic collages using **Charlie's Angels** trading cards and picture of **Florence Henderson** from the Wesson Oil coupons and ads. Soon I was arranging beans and noodles into larger portraits of these icons. It just exploded from there!

What kind of adhesives do you use?

All kinds! I can wield 2-3 hot glue guns at a time! I also use Elmer's glue (for beans and noodles), bookbinding glue (for paper) Eileen's Tacky glue (for pencils and other small things) and E-6000 for hard to glue things like wine bottles, football helmets and steering wheels! Also Weldbond is good because it's not toxic. I occasionally use a staple gun and screws.

How long does it take to make each portrait?

At least 50 hours, but many take much, much longer! **Lady Gaga** and **Farrah Fawcett** each took almost 2 months and hundreds of hours!

Where do you get all that weird stuff?

I love thrift shopping! For years I have collected a vast and varied arsenal of trash and trinkets that find their way into my art. These days, much of my material is gifted to me from friends, family, fans and of course the celebrities themselves.

Wait, do celebrities really send you their trash? How much do they send you? Who has sent you stuff?

Yes, they really do! Most people send me anywhere from a shoebox to a trash bag full of things to incorporate into their portraits. **Phyllis Diller** (RIP) sent me a small box every few months filled with odd things like pinecones, dried up paints, jewelry, eyeglasses and anti-itch ointments. **Hugh Hefner's** wife sent me his red pajamas, **Barbi Benton** sent me an entire U-Haul full of very personal keepsakes like prom queen crowns, platform shoes, Hee-Haw overalls, sunglasses, jewelry - and even the retainer she wore in high school! I also have a bag of **Pam Anderson's** laundry, and a letter **Paris Hilton** wrote me from prison!

Calendar Editors:

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