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**Solo Exhibitions by Kevin Todora and Robert Horvath Opening at Erin Cluley Gallery February 27th**

[Dallas, Texas – February 3, 2021] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce the concurrent solo exhibitions of Dallas based **KEVIN TODORA** and the first exhibition with the gallery by Indianapolis based artist **ROBERT HORVATH**. The exhibitions will be on view February 27th through April 3rd at the gallery located in the Dallas Design District at 150 Manufacturing Street, Suite 210.

**KEVIN TODORA** is known for pushing the boundaries of the photographic medium, often merging the painterly and the digital in a playful way. Revealing itself through cunning juxtaposed imagery and trompe l'oeil shadows, the end result is an image with a rich, familiar texture and implied depth. In *7head*, Todora continues this dialogue and renders the work as a way to process the tumultuous past year of pandemic and all-consuming politics.

The figures began as therapeutic gestures and digital sketches in an attempt to alleviate the artist's anxiety, stemming from constant consumption of the news cycles (a.k.a. doom scrolling). Experimenting with a range of diverse media, Todora captures texture, explores different states of his materials, and examines the interaction between various colors to achieve the ideal visual vibration. The animated colors, in part influenced by reading children's books to his two young daughters, imbue both a feeling of optimism and of shock – simultaneously overstimulating while also providing a reprieve from the collective gloom of the past year.

First imagined from a darker perspective, the concept for Todora's exhibition made reference to the seven-headed dragon, a mythological personification of the apocalypse. However, to free the concept from a solely pessimistic outlook, he permeated it with humor. The title also makes reference to the use of the number 7 as a vulgar phallic insult in Cantonese slang, with "7head" being an extension of that idiom to say that someone is especially stupid or useless.

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Through ceramics and his first exhibition with the gallery, *A Veritable Minefield of Useless Information*, **ROBERT HORVATH** explores the societal concept of the "meme" established in the 1970s by Richard Dawkins – an idea, behavior, style, or usage that escalates from person to person within a culture. More specifically, he is interested in how ideas operate, travel, and become warped in our digital age; often accelerating this process and contributing to further spread of misinformation. Like a game of telephone, the longer distance that a concept travels, the more distortion it may endure, evolving within and directly affecting our culture.

Horvath's amorphous, organic forms resemble living things that have grown little by little, stacking and clustering, amassing in size and context from its original state, much like the growth patterns of crystals, fungi, or modern myths. Their indulgent colors and textures recall the seductive quality of hearsay, and the seemingly unstable forms point to the precarious situations that can arise when our thought is decidedly not based in truth. By bringing these abstract fables into the physical world, Horvath critiques this phenomenon and confronts the viewer with the aftermath it can leave behind.

## About the Artists

**KEVIN TODORA** utilizes the photograph as the foundation for his sculptural work. His process consists of cutting, drilling and painting onto appropriated material in an attempt to free the image from its original obligation. By physically manipulating photographs, he distorts the original intent, making it his own. Behind the camera, Todora experiments with everyday objects, taking them out of their usual contexts and placing them into unexpected photographic tableaux. Both of these processes emanate from Todora's desire to renegotiate the purpose of an image. Ultimately, the deconstructed works rebel against what Todora considers intrusive imagery in print media.

Kevin Todora earned his MFA in 2009 from Southern Methodist University, and his BFA in 2009 from the University of Texas at Dallas. In 2013, Todora was the subject of a solo exhibition at Dallas Contemporary. His work has been included in group exhibitions at Barry Whistler Gallery, University of Texas at Dallas and the Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, as well as the inaugural Soluna Festival amongst artists Pipilotti Riist, Alex Prager, and others. Todora has been published in an issue of *New American Paintings* and has been awarded the Kimbrough Grant through the Dallas Museum of Art.

**ROBERT HORVATH** (born Nitra, Slovakia, 1974) received a BFA from Midwestern State University (1999) and an MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2002). Horvath follows a philosophy unbound from any one medium, reflected in his facility with painting, digital media, sculpture, and ceramics. Guided by multidisciplinary reflections on gender and sexuality, his work has spanned explorations of youthful hedonism in the early 2000s to temporal pastiches of homo-erotica that draw on Rococo aesthetics.

Horvath's present work plays with ideas of inventedness and amorphism, an unsuspectingly natural development in his diverse corpus to date. He has exhibited his work at Packer- Schopf Gallery in Chicago; Bert Green Fine Art in Los Angeles and Chicago; Lyonsweir Gallery in NYC; and Jolie Laide in Philadelphia, among others. Horvath is an Associate Professor of Painting at the Herron School of Art and Design at Indiana University.

### About Erin Cluley Gallery

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

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