

For Immediate Release

Contact: Nicole Moffatt
702.739.3314

CENTERpiece Gallery and MCQ Fine Art presents

A two-part exhibition featuring **David Levinthal** and **JW Caldwell**

(October 25, 2011) **CENTERpiece Gallery** and **MCQ Fine Art** are pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Las Vegas of artist **David Levinthal**. In this two-part exhibition, Levinthal uses large-format Polaroids to explore two prominent and recurring themes in his work, women and his iconic *Wild West* series.

In the first installment, **CENTERpiece Gallery** will focus on Levinthal's works that feature women from various series, including *Barbie*, *XXX*, *Desire*, and *American Beauties*. Levinthal's photographic work is a fascinating mix of children's toys with adult themes that reference cultural stereotypes. His photographs include imagery that is both playful and seductive, tapping into American notions of beauty, romance, desire, lust, and fantasy. The *Barbie* portraits embody the quintessential feminine role model and its antithesis. With their pseudo-clothes and coifs, the doll's rigid poses are set against bright, single color backgrounds. In contrast, the figures in *XXX* and *Desire* appear from darkness, blurry and out-of-focus, with body parts instantly recognizable though only partially discernable, evoking from the viewer a voyeuristic thrill.



The second installment will be at the **MCQ Fine Art Salon** downtown, and features Levinthal's *Wild West* series alongside paintings from local contemporary artist **JW Caldwell's** *CRD* series. Using toy figures Levinthal recreates Western movie-style scenarios: the cowboy on horseback, covered wagons, and Indians with feather headdresses. The artist conjures the romance of the Old West and pries loose childhood memories, provoking us to consider both anew. As a corollary, Caldwell's cowboys sit atop prehistoric beasts with overlapping texts that make clever references to contemporary culture.

Please join us for a **VIP opening reception** at **CENTERpiece Gallery with the artist David Levinthal**, Thursday, November 17, 2011, from 6 to 8 pm.

This two-part exhibition is on view **November 17 through January 15** at both **CENTERpiece Gallery**, 10 am to 6 pm daily, and at **MCQ Fine Art** downtown, 620 South 7th Street, on Fridays and Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm, or by appointment.



David Levinthal was born in San Francisco and received his MFA in Photography from Yale University. He has had numerous solo and group exhibitions at institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Japan and many more. His work is featured in many public collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, IL; The Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

JW Caldwell was born in rural southern California and received his BFA ('97) from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. Caldwell's work draws influence from disparate sources; from Abstract Expressionism to western illustration, Pop Art to old hunting photos, and contemporary street art to nature specials. He has developed a loyal collector base and has been exhibiting his paintings of cowboys, shipwrecks, hunting and fishing trips, and wild animal permutations for over fifteen years. His recent exhibitions include R3 Gallery in San Diego, *The New Old West* (2006); and Trifecta Gallery in Las Vegas, *Dismounting Your High Horse with Style and Grace* (2008), and *Shut Up* (2011).

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CENTERpiece Gallery is a 2,500-square-foot fine art and design venue that focuses not only on the traditional mediums of contemporary art such as photography and works on paper, but also presents unique and functional design objects and furniture. The gallery showcases works by many of the contemporary artists and architects featured throughout CityCenter, including artists Claes Oldenburg, Richard Misrach, Jenny Holzer and David Rockwell. For more information visit: www.centerpieceelv.com

MCQ Fine Art, LLC is a full-service art advisory and collection management firm with more than 20 years of professional experience specializing in Post-War and Contemporary Art, including the acquisition, installation and collection management for private and corporate art collections. For more information visit: www.mcqfineart.com