

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Dionysus in Love*—First Solo Exhibition in USA of the Art of Marco Silombria at the Leslie/Lohman Gallery**

New York, NY, April 11, 2009—The Leslie/Lohman Gallery is proud to present *Dionysus in Love*, the first solo exhibition in the United States of renowned Italian artist Marco Silombria. This retrospective exhibition—which will include paintings, drawings, ceramics and photographs—is curated by Peter Weiermair, a highly-regarded curator and publisher based in Europe. The exhibition runs from May 6 through June 27. Both the artist and curator will be at a public reception to mark the opening of the exhibition on Tuesday, May 5 from 6pm to 8pm.

Silombria is an astounding polymath in the world of arts, executing paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, collage and conceptual pieces with equal brilliance. The artist, who has exhibited extensively throughout Europe for nearly 25 years, deftly weaves classical motifs with modern subject matters, resulting in works that at once can be humorous, political and outrageous, but are always intriguing and often hauntingly beautiful.

On Friday, May 8 from 7pm to 9pm, the exhibition's curator, Peter Weiermair, will speak about both *Dionysus in Love* and the difficulties and joys of being the head of All Saints Press, his European publishing house that specializes in the work of gay artists.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Marco Silombria was born in 1936 in Savona in the Ligurian region of Italy. He attended the Art School of Genoa then moved to Turin to continue his education. After working in the design department at several PR and advertising firms, in 1968 Silombria founded his own firm, CGSS, which represented a diverse clientele including Fiat, GFT and SAI. In 1985, Silombria left the world of commercial advertising to focus his full energies on making art, expanding his work to include the plastic arts and photography.

Marco Silombria's solo exhibitions include: Rob Gallery in Amsterdam (1984), Galleria Weber in Turin, Italy (1988), the Museo Civico in Spoleto, Italy (1991), Gas Art Gallery in Turin, Italy (2003). His group exhibitions include: Leslie/Lohman Gallery (1986), Museo dell' Automobile in Turin, Italy (1993), Mostra dell' Artigianato di Firenze in Florence, Italy (1999), Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna, Italy (2002).

More information can be found at www.silombria.com

DIONYSUS IN LOVE at Leslie/Lohman Gallery (page 2)

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ABOUT THE CURATOR

Peter Weiermair has been a curator, author and publisher since 1964. He was the head of museums and art institutions in Austria, Germany and Italy from 1965 to 2005. Since the 1970s he has published a series of anthologies, monographs and catalogs of artists dealing with the male nude, including David Hockney, George Platt-Lynes, Robert Mapplethorpe, Arthur Tress, and Wilhelm von Gloeden. He is the founder and publisher of All Saints Press, which recently released *Treasures of Gay Art from the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation* (2008). He also serves on the executive committee of the European Society for the History of Photography.

ABOUT THE LESLIE/LOHMAN GAY ART FOUNDATION

Described as by New York Times art critic Holland Cotter as "...a thoroughly nonmainstream pearl beyond price," the LESLIE/LOHMAN GAY ART FOUNDATION (LLGAF) is a non-profit foundation established in 1990 to provide an outlet for artwork that is unambiguously gay and which is often denied access to mainstream venues. The Foundation mounts exhibitions of art in all media by gay and lesbian artists that emphasize subject matter that speaks to queer sensibilities, including works with erotic, political, romantic and social imagery. LLGAF also provides special support for emerging and underrepresented artists through The ARCHIVE (a quarterly art journal); an artists slide registry; and a permanent collection of more than 3,000 works, including pieces by artists Duncan Grant, Keith Haring, Andy Warhol, Jean Cocteau and Robert Mapplethorpe. Leslie/Lohman is the premier resource for anyone interested in the rich art legacy of the LGBTQ community and its influence on and confrontation with the mainstream art world.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

The following people involved in the exhibition *Dionysus in Love* are available for in-person or telephone/email interviews and photos through arrangement with Scott Runyon, Director of Communications at Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation (contact info below):

- Marco Silombria—Artist
- Peter Weiermair—Curator
- Charles Leslie—Founder & Executive Director of Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation
- Wayne Snellen—Director of Collections at Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation

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Marco Silombria, *Dionysus in Love*, chalk in gesso
with applied plastic and electric lights

Additional high-res images of Marco Silombria's artwork are available.
Email Scott at scott@leslielohman.org