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"GHOST TOWN" Exhibition and Event at L&M Arts Raises Over \$65,000 for Venice Family Clinic

Celebrities, art world patrons attend inaugural charity benefit for Westside community health clinic

VENICE—On Sunday, July 15, L&M Arts in Venice hosted GHOST TOWN, an art exhibition and reception that raised over \$65,000 to benefit Venice Family Clinic, a community health clinic that provides quality health care to 25,000 low-income and uninsured patients each year through 8 locations on the Westside of Los Angeles.

Named for the historic area of Venice Beach where L&M Arts is located, GHOST TOWN was organized by artist and Venice Art Walk & Auctions steering committee member Drew Heitzler and L&M Arts Los Angeles senior director Sarah Watson. GHOST TOWN was hosted by art, fashion and entertainment influencers Rebecca Bloom, Kimberly Chang, Meredith Darrow, Mike Eisner, Tracy Feith, Bettina Korek, Christine Nichols, Eliza Osborne, Esther Kim Varet, Ed Schad, Erin Wasson, and Sarah Watson.

The one-night-only GHOST TOWN exhibit featured 18 works by artists including John Baldessari, Sam Durant, Mark Hagen, Mark Grotjahn, Jacob Kassay, Shio Kusaka, Wes Lang, Andrea Longacre White, Olivier Mosset, Carter Mull, Raymond Pettibon, Amanda Ross-Ho, Allen Ruppersberg, Owen Schmit, Alexis Smith, Vincent Szarek, Samantha Thomas, and Jonas Wood.

"I've been a longtime supporter of Venice Family Clinic and I wanted to bring together key players in the art, music, entertainment and fashion worlds for a cool, yet intimate evening to raise awareness and funds for the Clinic," said artist and GHOST TOWN organizer Drew Heitzler. "With over \$65,000 raised for Venice Family Clinic, we were really pleased at the turnout and art sales for our very first GHOST TOWN event. It's our goal that GHOST TOWN will become a hot event on the arts and benefit calendars every year and will raise even more money in support of Venice Family Clinic."

Following a VIP reception where guests enjoyed food donated by Venice hotspot Gjelina and oyster gourmet Christophe Happillon, sister trio Haim and Tenacious D (Jack Black and Kyle Gass) performed live for a fashionable crowd that included actresses Julie Bowen, Camryn Manheim and Molly Shannon; model Erin Wasson; Eagles bassist Timothy B. Schmit; artist Jay Mark Johnson; Christie's Andrea Fiuczynski; Sotheby's Eliza Osborne; Hammer Museum curator Ali Subotnick, art dealers Jeff Poe and David Quadrini; architects David Hertz, Steven Shortridge and Kulapat Yantrasast; and Venice Family Clinic CEO Elizabeth Benson Forer. Actor Elijah Wood and Joey Kotting DJ'd a portion of the evening and musician/visual artist Brendan Fowler served as MC. Beverages were provided by Beck's, Patron, and smartwater.

"The tradition of Venice artists supporting our work started with Venice Art Walk and continues through incredible events like GHOST TOWN. We couldn't be more grateful," said Elizabeth Forer, CEO and executive director of Venice Family Clinic.

All ticket and art sales from GHOST TOWN directly fund health care services at Venice Family Clinic, a community health clinic that serves 25,000 low-income and uninsured men, women, children and teens each year through eight locations in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Inglewood and Culver City. Founded in 1970, Venice Family Clinic organizes the annual Venice Art Walk & Auctions, the oldest art walk in Los Angeles. The 2012 Venice Art Walk & Auctions held May 19th-20th featured more than 300 artists, drew 3,500 attendees and raised significant funds for Venice Family Clinic's health care services.

For more information on Venice Family Clinic, please visit www.venicefamilyclinic.org. For more information on L&M Arts, please visit www.lmgallery.com

Venice Family Clinic's mission is to provide affordable quality health care to people in need. Established in 1970 by founder Phillip Rossman, MD, and co-founder Mayer B. Davidson, MD, the Clinic has grown from a small storefront operation into the largest free clinic in the country. Venice Family Clinic is the medical home for over 25,000 patients through nine sites in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Inglewood, and Culver City. www.venicefamilyclinic.org Find us on Facebook. www.venicefamilyclinic.org Find us on Facebook. www.venicefamilyclinic.