

623 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001  
tel 212.243.5937 fax 212.243.3927  
www.clementine-gallery.com

## CLEMENTINE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2007

Contact: Leigh Ross, Assistant Director  
Tel: 212.243.5937 Email: [clemgal@clementine-gallery.com](mailto:clemgal@clementine-gallery.com)

Clementine Gallery announces the opening of *The Departure of the Fish: Redux*, a solo exhibition of work by **Alexander Lee**. The show will run from **April 27–May 26, 2007**. A reception for the public will be held on **Friday, April 27th, from 6-8 PM**.

*The Departure of the Fish: Redux* takes its name from a creation myth of the artist's native Tahiti. The legend tells of a volcanic island that transformed into a fish and swam from the mythological place of *Havai'i* to the north, where it turned once again into land and formed the Tahitian islands. For this exhibition, Lee engages in a symbolic retelling of these events through the construction of an ambitious sculptural installation.

Central to the artist's narrative is a two-headed chimera character cast entirely out of resin and gleaming black Tahitian sand. This, along with myriad other fish, eel, and coral covered human limbs, is staged upon a set of sleek wooden platforms cut into wave like patterns and painted pale blue. Collectively, they transform the gallery space into a vast underwater reliquary, a series of unsettling artifacts that serve to illuminate Lee's investigation into the stories and traditions of his past. At the same time, this fragmented imagery- severed legs, heaps of lifeless fish- provides a visceral and arresting allusion to contemporary tragedies like 9/11 and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. As such, Lee's interest in what he calls "a re-visitation of communal catastrophe and of trauma as spectacle," merges history and myth to blur the boundaries between life, death, decay and re-birth.

Alexander Lee's work was recently featured in a solo exhibition at Kinkead Contemporary in Los Angeles, and has been included in many group show across the United States and in Europe. He received his MFA from Columbia University and an MPS from the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University. This is his first solo exhibition in New York.

*This exhibition was organized in cooperation with Scenic.*

**Alexander Lee**, *The Departure of the Fish: Redux*, will be on view during regular gallery hours, Tuesday- Saturday, 11- 6 PM and by appointment. For further information and reproductions, please do not hesitate to contact the gallery at 212.243.5937 or email us at: [clemgal@clementine-gallery.com](mailto:clemgal@clementine-gallery.com).