

## DAVID FORD'S *RELAX* AT DOLPHIN

On View November 20, 2009 – January 9, 2010

David Ford will present *RELAX*, his second solo exhibition at DOLPHIN from November 20 – January 9, 2010. Occupying the entire gallery, Ford's show of paintings, photography, sculpture, and soft performance will continue his interest in revealing the cultural juxtapositions that animate and manipulate politics, ideology and psychology in America today – themes which will in turn be activated by Carneceria Lupe's full service taco cart and a representation of undocumented workers building walls within the gallery.



*RELAX* will feature works by Ford that manifested during the last two years. These works reflect the shifting boundaries and philosophies of our global climate. Walls, both literally and figuratively are constructed and deconstructed as elaborate framing devices. Ford uses diverse media and performance elements to confront complex cultural situations from a multiplicity of angles. Contemporary images of Mecca and ROTC students are forced into dialogue with the taco cart and construction workers, blurring artistic mediums, suggesting an elaboration of concepts.

A self-taught artist, Ford has been exploring the painterly in everyday contexts for over 25 years, incorporating diverse ideas of beauty culled from his travels in non-European societies with a discordant, political humor. Ford's visually ornate imagery lends a folkloric air to compositions and collages of deities and corporate logos, dreamy landscapes and catch phrases that implicate the viewer in a collective search for meaning. His work has been shown nationally and internationally, with solo shows in New York, Kansas City, and Mexico. He has received awards from the prestigious Creative Capital Foundation, The Charlotte Street Foundation, and the Tanne Foundation.

In addition to paintings and sculptures, Ford is a leading innovator of the soft performance movement. Working within the fourth and fifth dimension, he is known for directing immersive performance installations that draw equally from traditional celebrations such as religious rituals and Mardi Gras parades, and current event scenarios of secret prisons and heightened security measures. These performances have become new rituals in their own right, connecting an artistic community and initiating collaborations with clergymen, exotic dancers, cage fight announcers, marching bands, and revolutionary war re-enactors. Ford's "activated" installation seen this past October when he and his Mardi Gras Krewe staged *Maximon*, a participatory spectacle honoring the Mayan god of vice - a happening that has become an underground tradition in Kansas City since 2001.

***RELAX* at DOLPHIN**, 1600 Liberty, Kansas City, MO [www.thedolphingallery.com](http://www.thedolphingallery.com)

Opening Reception with soft performance one night only November 20, 6 -10pm, Exhibition runs November 20 – January 9, 2010

(Concurrently, the Kansas City Art Institute's [Artspace](#) has commissioned David Ford to create *relax*, a new work on view for the Artspace Project Wall).

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**For Press Inquiries and Images, please contact:**  
Emily Eddins, [emily@thedolphingallery.com](mailto:emily@thedolphingallery.com) / 816-842-4415