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Contact Erin Cluley Gallery  
[press@erincluley.com](mailto:press@erincluley.com)

***CHIVAS CLEM: DESPERATE TO APPEAR SOPHISTICATED  
AND OTHER TITLES* opens Saturday April 4 at Erin Cluley Gallery**

[Dallas, Texas – March 1, 2015] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce its first exhibition with Paris, Texas based artist **CHIVAS CLEM** April 4 through May 2, 2015. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artist on Saturday April 4 from 6:00-8:00 pm in conjunction with Dallas Arts Week.

In his first solo exhibition in Dallas, Chivas Clem presents a new group of paintings made from glitter, metallic confetti, and other materials suspended in resin. Poured onto canvas, the resin drips evoke ejaculate, oil spills, makeup, and children's craft projects gone awry. The title of the show references an early performance documented on video, *Desperate to Appear Sophisticated*, 1998 in which the artist vomited glitter into the lens of the camera. The new paintings can be read as a vestige of that gesture.

The canvases reflect Clem's ongoing exploration of glamour as a form of abjection, as well as his morbid fascination with the decadence of global capitalism. The paintings of oozing black glitter frozen in resin, alluring yet sinister, suggest the oil spills that befoul the Texas coastline—and the vast fortunes made from this primitive substance. The image of the "pour" is represented as a slippery gesture – its material usage furthering the irony of painting itself, as it is a 'dead' medium.

The paintings will be paired with sculptures made from used VHS tapes. Since his recent return to Texas from New York, Clem has been collecting cultural debris, particularly the obsolete VHS tapes that first brought the big screen into American living rooms. Culled from thrift stores and garage sales in East Texas, the films range from low-budget B movies to Oscar-winning classics – an index of what reached one of the most rural regions in the country. Clem refers to these sculptures as "totems." He views them as sacred objects emblematic of an artificially constructed shared past; an archive of collective myths both high and low. As Joan Didion writes, they are "the stories we tell ourselves in order to live," but ossified into genre; romance, action, drama, horror, thriller.

In pairing ready-mades with expressionist paintings, Clem converges the formlessness of the spills and the careful arrangement of tapes in an act of cultural attrition, with the sheen of the poured glitter functioning as a mirror of our allegorical impulses desiccating on miles of tape.

A native of Paris Texas, Clem is a graduate from the prestigious Whitney Independent Study Program. During more than a decade in New York, Clem is known for launching the influential artists space *The Fifth International*, which championed the work of Aaron Curry, Alex Bag, Jonathan Horowitz and others. Clem's work has been exhibited widely in the United States and Europe including Deitch Projects in New York, Dallas Contemporary, and Galerie Almine Rech in Paris. His work is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, The Centre George Pompidou in Paris, and private collections in the United States and Europe. Clem is currently represented by the MacCarone gallery in New York and Los Angeles.

### **About Erin Cluley Gallery**

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging and mid-career artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

The 2000 square foot space is joining a creative movement in the West Dallas/ Trinity Groves development at the foot of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in West Dallas.

In conjunction with mounting exhibitions inside the gallery space, Erin Cluley Gallery will maintain a focus on presenting public projects conceptualized by its artists. Negotiating projects on the artists' behalf, the gallery will make this an ongoing component of the exhibition program and an impactful contribution to public art intervention in Dallas.

Erin Cluley served as the Director of Exhibitions at Dallas Contemporary from 2009 - 2014 where she worked on the production of exhibitions by Zoe Crosher, Gabriel Dawe, K8 Hardy, Georg Herold, Aaron Parazette, Richard Phillips, John Pomara, Rob Pruitt, Jennifer Rubell, Julian Schnabel, Juergen Teller, Walter Van Beirendonck, Inez & Vinoodh, Erwin Wurm and others. Erin Cluley also worked with artists and their crews producing murals in Dallas by Shepard Fairey, Soner, JMR, Sourgrapes, Faile, Michael Sieben and JR.

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For more information or images please contact:

Erin Cluley, Erin Cluley Gallery

[press@erincluley.com](mailto:press@erincluley.com) + 214 538 1148

414 Fabrication Street, Dallas Texas 75212, United States of America