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San Antonio artist Chuck Ramirez's work chosen for Armory Show in New York 12 years after his death

Deborah Martin, Staff writer

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San Antonio artist Chuck Ramirez died more than a decade ago, but his work continues to resonate in the art world -- so much so that an installation he created in 1999 will be re-created for The Armory Show in New York next month.

The Armory Show is one of the leading art fairs in the world, said Patricia Ruiz-Healy, whose Ruiz-Healy Art gallery represents Ramirez' estate. This marks the first time Ramirez's work has appeared in the fair, which runs from Sept. 9 through 11.

It's also a first for the gallery.

"It's going to be great to really showcase his work in a solo show at this kind of caliber of art fair," Ruiz-Healy said.

This will be the first time that "Long-Term Survivor" has been seen in its entirety since it premiered in Artpace's Hudson Showroom, though some of it was re-created at the McNay Art Museum in a 2017 survey of Ramirez's work.

The AIDS-themed installation was informed by the artist's life.

"This work was so courageous when he did it back in 1999 -- coming out, saying, 'I'm HIV-positive, I'm gay,' in San Antonio, of all places, where it used to be, and still is, a very traditional kind of town," Ruiz-Healy said. "It was a very courageous thing that he did, and we still want to celebrate that."

She thinks the piece may strike some as particularly timely right now both because of the continuing pandemic and because of the outbreak of monkeypox, to which gay and bisexual men have been particularly vulnerable. New York City has declared a public health emergency because of the spread of the illness there. There's also the fact that HIV remains an issue, she said.

"They haven't found a cure," she said. "It still affects so many millions of people."

Ramirez was known for his large-scale photographs of routine objects, and the installation includes "Cocktail," a series of images depicting pill boxes; and "Chaps," an enormous image of black chaps.

"It's 60 inches tall by 72," Ruiz-Healy said. "It'll stop you in your tracks, basically."

"Long-Term Survivor" also includes a video installation mounted on a deep red wall like the one in the original Artpace installation.

Riley Robinson, who has worked for Artpace since it was founded and is now director of the arts residency program, has vivid memories of the visual impact of the red wall. He also remembers the power of the installation as a whole.

"It was a very poignant show," said Robinson, who also was friends with Ramirez. "And Chuck was trying to tell everybody what it was like for him personally and what it might be like for other people generally to go through what he was going through. I think the pill boxes were a big example of that."

Curator Carla Acavedo-Yates, who works for the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, selected the installation for The Armory Show.

Ramirez died in a bicycling accident in 2010. Since then, his work has been acquired by 15 museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

Ruiz-Healy thinks it would have meant a lot to him to have his work in The Armory Show.

"He would be flipping out," she said. "It's a super-big deal for any artist."

The Armory Show also can be viewed on [artsy.net](https://www.artsy.net) from Sept. 9 through 25.

dlmartin@express-news.net | Twitter: [@DeborahMartinEN](https://twitter.com/DeborahMartinEN)

