

**SIMON
LEE**

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Larry Clark

Los Angeles 2003-2006

February 6th – March 14th 2008

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to announce its forthcoming exhibition of new photographs by the renowned American photographer and filmmaker Larry Clark.

Los Angeles 2003-2006 reflects the artist's life-long interest in the subject of today's youth within a marginalized urban environment. In this particular body of work, we witness the physical transformation of Jonathan Velasquez throughout the period of his adolescent years. Jonathan, a teenager living in South Central Los Angeles whom the artist encountered by chance, inspired Clark to write and direct the film *Wassup Rockers*. In this obsessive four year photographic chronicle of Jonathan's life, we experience not so much the unfolding of a series of portraits but rather the weaving of the subject's personal life within the context of a particular social milieu common to so many of today's urban youth subcultures.

Building upon Larry's previous photographic accomplishments beginning with *Tulsa, Teenage Lust, 1992, the Perfect Childhood, punk Picasso*, and in film with *Kids, Bully, Ken Park* and *Wassup Rockers* this series of photographs further probes with equal intensity and unabashed honesty the often subtle, often glaring changes that all youth, and in particular Jonathan, go through in their teenage years. The close-up shots, the fulllength frontal views, the groupings of Jonathan with his friends all combine to portray the vulnerability as well as the subjects' expressions of newfound individuality, vitality and independence of life style. The large scale pigment prints reflect a departure for Clark from the more spare and documentary sensibility that characterize his earlier work, and in so doing allow for a more tender and evocative exploration of his subject.

A monographic publication featuring the entire series of photographs will accompany the exhibition, which will open to the public on Tuesday, February, 5th. The artist will be present for a book signing on the Wednesday, February 6th, between the hours of 3 and 5 PM .

For further information please contact the gallery at + 44 (0) 207 491 01 00 or contact Claudia@simonleegallery.com

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