

## For Immediate Release

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March 26, 2011

### CHUCK CLOSE PORTRAITS AT CSUSB MUSEUM OF ART

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. -- The large scale photorealistic portraits by famous American artist Chuck Close will be on display at Cal State San Bernardino's Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art through May 2011.

"Chuck Close" features images in his well-known style printed on Jacquard tapestries (courtesy of Magnolia Editions in Oakland, Calif.). The exhibit runs March 26-May 25. A special reception for the show will be held at RAFFMA on Thursday, April 14, from 5-7 p.m.

Initially recognized as a forerunner of the American photorealism movement, Close creates paintings that suggest a high respect for the technical process. His portraits, which are typically large scale and closely cropped, are created through an underlying grid system. The time consuming way in which he produces art typifies his thought process, as he often found "most of the pleasure in getting the last little piece perfect."



Kiki, 2006. Jacquard tapestry, 103 x 79 in. Edition of 6. Photo: Donald Farnsworth. Courtesy of the artist and Magnolia Editions, Oakland, CA.

Close emerged in the 1970s as a photorealistic painter, known best for his portraits of family, friends and other contemporary artists. Ironically, while gaining renown as one of the best-known contemporary portraitists, he also suffers from a medical condition that inhibits his ability to recognize faces. Despite being confined to a wheelchair since the late 1980s, he continues to produce pieces that are both influential and intriguing.

His artwork has changed over the years. Today, it also indulges his interests in new mediums, but has maintained its original spirit through his continued use of a gridding system. In recent years, he has experimented with transferring his images into tapestries using a Jacquard loom. The process of tapestry making is comparable to his former painting process as both incorporate the use of a gridding system in which the image appears pixilated close-up, but looks almost photographic from afar.

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The Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art is a nationally recognized museum, accredited by the American Association of Museums. The art museum has accumulated a permanent collection of nearly 1,200 objects focusing on Egyptian antiquities, ceramics and contemporary art.

General admission to the museum is free. The suggested donation is \$3. Parking at Cal State San Bernardino is \$5 per vehicle.

The museum is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and is closed Friday and Sunday. For more information, call (909) 537-7373 or visit the RAFFMA website at <http://raffma.csusb.edu>.

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