

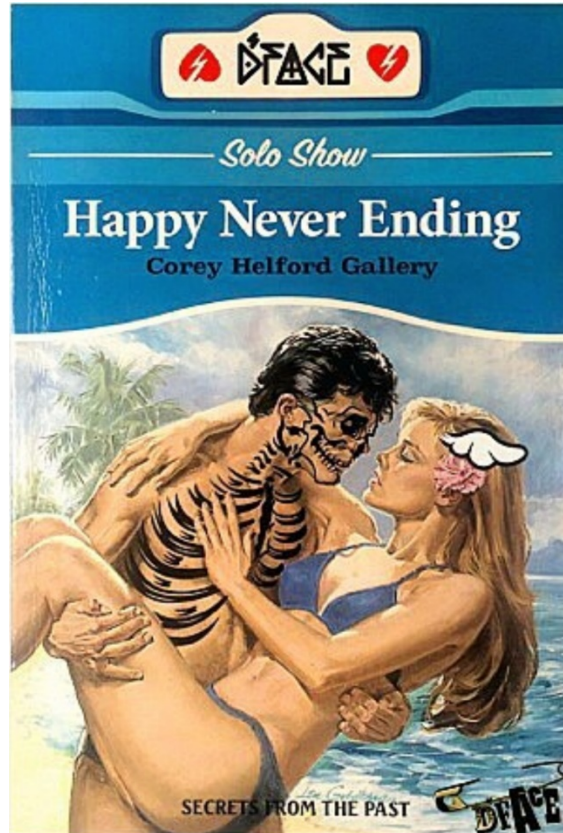
# COREY HELFORD GALLERY

presents

## D\*FACE

### “Happy Never Ending”

Opening Reception Saturday, September 23 from 7-11pm  
(On View September 23 Through October 21, 2017)



On **Saturday, September 23**, Downtown Los Angeles' **Corey Helford Gallery (CHG)** will premiere the long awaited new solo exhibition from world-renowned UK-based multimedia street artist **D\*Face**, entitled **“Happy Never Ending,”** in **Gallery 1**.

As one of the most prolific contemporary urban artists of his generation, **D\*Face** (a.k.a. Dean Stockton) has been at the forefront of his practice since his initial breakthrough in 2005. Working with a variety of mediums and techniques, he uses a family of dysfunctional characters to satirize and hold to ransom all that falls into their grasp – a welcome jolt of subversion in today's media-saturated environment.

His ambition is to encourage the public eye not just to “see” but to carefully consider the surroundings of our day-to-day, and society's increasingly bizarre fascination with celebrity culture and mass consumerism.

**Regarding his new works, D\*Face shares:** “For me this work is about the tragedy of losing someone you love. Not just in the physical sense of death but also in the metaphorical way that romance has become such an artificial thing in recent years. Courtship used to be a craft, something careful and considered; marriage was an everlasting bond of trust and commitment. Today though, romance is comparable to a shop bought commodity - instantly attainable at the touch of a button or swipe of a screen. In a constant search for

someone or something better, people treat others as if they were mere objects - infinitely attainable and instantly disposable.”

By rethinking, editing and subverting imagery drawn from decades of materialistic consumption - currency, advertising and comic books, **D\*Face** transforms these now iconic motifs, figures and genres in order to gain new insight into today's conspicuous society. Describing his work as aPOPcalyptic, **D\*Face** seeks to pick up where the masters of 80s American Pop left off - to establish a very real, albeit tongue and cheek criticism of our consumer dominated world.

**D\*Face adds:** “With this new series of work I wanted to re-ignite the lost romance of a bygone era, back when, even in death, the memory of a loved one could last an eternity and a marriage went beyond just a symbolic gesture. For the show I want to construct a mini chapel where we can actually hold a real ceremony and a graveyard in which I want people to leave mementos to the people they have lost. If romance is truly dead, then I want to resurrect it for the modern age.

The influence I've taken from pop-masters like Roy Lichtenstein allows my work to give the clearest possible narrative. At the same time, it offers something more, something beyond the surface of the work - a darker side to pop that resonates with society of today.”

The opening reception for “**Happy Never Ending**” will be hosted **Saturday, September 23 from 7-11pm** in **Gallery 1** at **Corey Helford Gallery**. The reception is open to the public and on view through **October 21**.

#### **About D\*Face:**

As one of the UK's most prolific street artists, D\*Face (Dean Stockton) has been at the forefront of his practice since his initial breakthrough in 2005. Having grown up amidst the streets of London, he cultivated a keen interest in graffiti art and its disaffected mindset from an early age. As a teenager, his artistic attentions turned to skate culture and the iconic skate deck designs of Jim Phipps and Vernon Courtlandt Johnson that he found in *Thrasher Magazine*. Inspired by their punk DIY aesthetic, D\*Face attended an illustration and design course before beginning work as a freelance artist. Taking the public domain of the street as his canvas, he blended art, design and graffiti in a manner that pre-dated the emergence of street art as it is known today. Here the artist gained a great deal of attention, quickly rising to fame for the vivid nature of his designs. Despite now working in the gallery as well as the open canvas of the streets, D\*Face continues to approach his work with the same anarchic energy that drove him to begin his career from the outset. His vibrant pop style and D\*Dog logo have become synonymous with British street style and are recognized the world-over.

Alongside having worked with the likes of Shepard Fairey and Banksy, D\*Face has also collaborated with Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II on a project that involved the customization of banknotes and coins and their secret reinsertion back into public circulation. In 2005 the artist was also commissioned by the Vatican to produce a portrait in commemoration of Pope Benedict XVI's instatement. The piece was shown for the first time at the Outside Institute in May 2005, as well as on MTV Rome to great critical acclaim. In recent years D\*Face continues to work closely with cultural icons, having designed the latest album artwork for the internationally renowned punk band, Blink-182, a record which sold over five hundred thousand copies worldwide and reached number one in over fifty countries.

On top of solo exhibitions, global mural commissions and a host of secret projects, D\*Face also runs his own London gallery, StolenSpace, which hosts numerous sell out street art exhibitions on an annual basis. In more recent years he has also begun a new venture into motorbike design with his Rebels Alliance Motorcycle Company, similarly based in London's east end. With so much in the works, it's hard to say what's next in store for one of the UK's most eminent street artists.

*“D\*Face is one of Britain's leading ‘newbrow’ artists, and damn if he isn't as sharp and clever - if not quite as surreptitious – as Banksy (and sharper and cleverer by half than Damien Hirst.)”*

**- Peter Frank, senior curator at the Riverside Art Museum and art critic for *Angeleno* magazine**

#### **About Corey Helford Gallery:**

Corey Helford Gallery (CHG) was first established in 2006 by Jan Corey Helford and her husband, television producer and creator, Bruce Helford (*Anger Management, The Drew Carey Show, George Lopez, The Oblongs*) and has since evolved into one of the premier galleries of New Contemporary art. Its goals as an institution are the support and growth of young and emerging, to well-known and internationally established artists, the production and promotion of their artwork, and the general production of their exhibits, events and projects.

CHG represents a diverse collection of international artists, primarily influenced by today's pop culture and collectively encompassing style genres such as New Figurative Art, Pop Surrealism, Neo Pop, Graffiti and Street Art, and Post-Graffiti.

After nine years in Culver City, CHG relocated in December 2015 to a robust 12,000 sq. ft. building in Downtown Los Angeles, seven times larger than its original space, where it continues to host exhibitions within the heart of the city's art community. The current space boasts three separate galleries, each of which house individual artist and group exhibitions, whereas the main gallery offers 4,500 sq. ft., providing total immersion for its attendees. New exhibitions are presented approximately every four weeks. For more info and an upcoming exhibition schedule, visit [CoreyHelfordGallery.com](http://CoreyHelfordGallery.com) and connect on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

**COREY HELFORD GALLERY**

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