



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stranger Factory art space is proud to present its June 2012 exhibitions:

**Chet Zar's *Le Petite Mort*, Charlie Immer's *Scuffle* & Stephan Webb's *Sinister Dexterity*
June 1 – July 2, 2012**

Opening Reception: Friday, June 1, 6-9pm

Artists will be in attendance

Stranger Factory is gearing up for a romp into the realm of the strange and unsettling with a triple-header solo extravaganza this June. Master of the macabre, Chet Zar, sugary surrealist Charlie Immer and gothic sculptor Stephan Webb are blowing into the Duke City to intrigue and dazzle us with explorations of death, biomechanics and a hearty dose of violence. The exhibitions stand alone and also blend seamlessly with overarching themes, creating a narrative of bizarre and beautiful darkness through painting and sculpture.

Chet Zar on *Le Petite Mort*:

I have been fascinated by death since I was very young. Skulls and death related imagery have always resonated with me, probably as a place to hang my childhood fears.

Since I usually create artwork from my subconscious, you might conclude that I am subconsciously confronting my own mortality through painting. It could be true. But honestly, I don't really know for sure. I know what I like to paint, and I like to paint skulls!

Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Well, taxes are quite a boring subject. But death! That is another story entirely. It's going to happen to me, you, everybody we know and everybody we don't. It's even going to happen to those who have not been born yet and it has happened to everybody who have come before us. Surely this is a valid topic for exploration though art!

Charlie Immer on *Scuffle*:

Scuffle is a tribute to 2D fighting video games. I hoped to capture the specific structure of those games. From the individual character portraits complete with battle damage, to the themed areas where the damage is received. Ranged magic and melee combat is explored. In all of my work my characters feel no pain so there is no need for empathy. We can all just enjoy the blood, icing, and gem bits as they spill, splatter, and ricochet onto the beaches and cave walls of the world that's been created.

Stephan Webb on *Sinister Dexterity*:

A major theme for this upcoming show is the representation of hands throughout the series. I feel that a hand gesture can evoke just as much as an emotional response as a facial expression. Also, the name for this show has just as much roots in biology as the pieces themselves. Biologists love their Latin root words when creating names for anything that, previously, is unprescribed. For instance, the word "sinister" is derived from the Latin word *Sinistra*, meaning "left handed." During the middle ages (and in some modern cultures) left handed people were seen as being evil, thus the word has developed an ominous connotation in modern contexts. The word "dexterity" is derived from the Latin word *Dextro*, meaning "right handed" and, in modern contexts, is referred to as the ability of carrying out manual tasks. What happens when you combine right and left hand? My show, *Sinister Dexterity*, an ominous compilation of manual aptitude!

ARTIST BIOS:

Born on November 12th, 1967, in the harbor town of San Pedro, CA, **Chet Zar's** interest in the darker side of art began in the earliest stages of his life. A natural fascination with all things strange fostered within himself a deep connection to horror movies and dark imagery. The combined interest in horror films and art eventually culminated into a career as a special effects makeup artist, designer and sculptor for the motion picture industry. But the many years spent dealing with all of the politics and artistic compromises of the film industry left Zar feeling creatively stagnant. At the beginning of 2000, he decided to go back to his roots and focus on his own original works and try his hand at fine art, specifically painting in oils. The result has been a renewed sense of purpose, artistic freedom and a clarity of vision that is evident in his darkly surreal (and often darkly humorous) paintings.

Website and social media : www.chetzar.com | @ChetZar

Charlie Immer is an artist and illustrator based in Maryland. He holds a BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. His work has been exhibited internationally and published in Juxtapoz and Hi-Fructose magazines. Charlie enjoys dissecting his subjects which creates a contrast between colorful simple characters and the beauty of the anatomy within them. He currently lives in Hagerstown with his collection of skeletons and candy.

Website and social media: www.charlieimmer.com | @SkeletonSlime

Stephan Webb is a graduate from the University of New Mexico with a BS in biology. His artwork takes a surrealistic view of biological process and how they interact with our fabricated human environments. Attempting to capture the ongoing process of evolution, his work tells a story of organisms that have evolved in cohesion with man's machines or discarded relics: a merging of biology with industry. Often these themes are combined in intricate sculptures that feature biological entities and structures juxtaposed with harsh geometric shapes, while trying to establish a soft merger of the two. His newest body of work explores the inner workings of the human psyche and the forces that are imposed on an individual that affect the behavior and characteristics of that individual.

Website and social media: www.stephanwebb.com | FB Page: Geometric Origins, Bronze Creations

STRANGER FACTORY brings a fresh perspective to the American art + design scene, connecting world class artists from the Pop Surrealist and Lowbrow movements to New Mexico. Dedicated to providing aspiring art collectors the opportunity to begin their collections with original artworks and limited edition releases at affordable prices, Stranger Factory is not only a collaborative effort among the artists, but between the space and its patrons as well.

109 Carlisle Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106
505-508-3049 | stranger@strangerfactory.com

We're open:

Mon - Thurs: 11am - 6pm

Fri-Sat: 11am - 7pm

Sunday: 11am - 5pm

& by appointment





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LA PETITE MORT - Ghet Zar
SCUFFLE - Charlie Immer
SINISTER DEXTERITY - Stephan Webb

JUNE 1ST - JULY 1ST

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