

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MICHAEL REAFSNYDER

### *We Ate the House*

21 March - 20 April 2013

Public Artist Reception: 21 March 6 - 8 PM

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**NEW YORK, NEW YORK - AMERINGER | McENERY | YOHE** is pleased to announce *We Ate the House*, a solo exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Michael Reafsnnyder. The exhibition will open on 21 March and will remain on view through 20 April 2013. A reception for the artist will take place 21 March, between 6:00 and 8:00 PM.

Michael Reafsnnyder's churning surfaces cajole his viewers' imaginations into action. Engaging frivolity, sensuousness, and excess, the paintings and sculptures of *We Ate the House* immediately seize your attention, then slow you down to savor every exquisite, juicy, delicious detail.

At first glance, each painting seems to carry the presence of five or six paintings that have crashed together, yet happy accidents and colorific harmonies occur too frequently to be random. Reafsnnyder paints quickly—each painting is constructed in a single sitting—but like a gleeful, carnivalesque Jackson Pollock, Reafsnnyder builds sophisticated compositions that catch, dive, and roll viewers along a swirling, multi-layered rainbow punctuated with daubs, dots, and his characteristic smiley faces.

The sculptures continue the artist's engagement with down-and-dirty pleasure and cheerful exuberance. With clay, engobe, and glaze, he meticulously creates creatures whose origins seem otherworldly, yet possess a living, emotional presence too concrete and muscular to be called whimsical.

Regarding his work, Reafsnnyder states: "The liquidity of paint and clay allow for 'Indiana Jones'-type adventures, a sort of immediate experience in which every turn or twist presents a new pleasure and a new concern. The trick is to make sure that the works do not end up solely as a record of those decisions, but take on a new life."

Michael Reafsnnyder (b. 1969, California) received an MFA from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, in 1996. He has exhibited extensively in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia. His work may be found in numerous public and private collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA; Laguna Art Museum, CA; Las Vegas Art Museum, NV; Columbus Museum of Art, OH; and the Portland Art Museum, OR.

Reafsnnyder lives and works in Southern California.

**Ameringer | McEnergy | Yohe** is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and by appointment.

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Above Image: *Paint Eater* (detail), 2012, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 72 inches, 152.4 x 182.9 cm