

# NOHRA HAIME GALLERY 730 FIFTH AVENUE

## NATALIA ARIAS: CLASS OF 2015

November 17 – December 31, 2015

Opening Reception: Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m.



*Natalia Arias: Charlie, 2015, C-Print, 47 x 47 in. 119.4 x 119.4 cm.*

Natalia Arias' newest body of work, *CLASS OF 2015*, will be on view at Nohra Haime Gallery from November 17 to December 31, 2015. A creative investigation of beauty in our contemporary world, Arias explores its archetypes through children's visual identification using dolls as experimental canvases.

In *CLASS OF 2015*, Natalia Arias combines issues of identity with today's accepted beauty attributes. She references the ideas children have about beauty, and the transformations needed in order to "turn" something or someone into a beautiful thing. Presenting this concept with a sharp and sarcastic sense of humor, she creates images of altered dolls that have seemingly been painted and manipulated by the hands of a child. In using children's pure and unaffected points of view, she displays before our eyes the contrast between them and the social visualization of attractiveness that we are incorporating into our collective aesthetics.

The dolls are painted, cut, and their outfits changed - modifications made to come closer to a child's concept of perfection. The photographs imitate the customary school portrait, emphasizing the child-like atmosphere and the humoristic gesture. Through these tools, Arias lays out the absurdity in our obsession with physical beauty, yet accentuates the same importance that children, still unaltered by our visual culture, give to it.

With *CLASS OF 2015*, Arias continues exploring modern culture through sarcasm, taboos, clichés, myths and icons, as well as examining the process of transition and transformation. By presenting images in a state of flux, Arias poses questions about existence and identity. In her own words: “The child sees that unblemished, 'perfect' plaything as incomplete. They add color and indelible detail with marker, paint, makeup and pencil. They remove hair, clothes and accessories with scissors and through wear from use. And through this transformation they wind up with the 'imperfect' that becomes a best friend.”

Born in Great Britain in 1977, Natalia Arias was raised in Bogotá, Colombia, and studied Photography at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She lives and works in Miami, FL. Arias has exhibited her work in major U.S. cities such as New York, Miami, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles, as well as internationally in Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Puerto Rico and England, among others.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Garrett at [art@nohrahaimgallery.com](mailto:art@nohrahaimgallery.com) or 212-888-3550