

**The David Ireland House Presents:
*Box of Angels***



**Featuring David Ireland and Felix Gonzalez-Torres
May 12 – July 29, 2017**

May 1, 2017 San Francisco, CA – In 1991, David Ireland and Felix Gonzalez-Torres were featured in the group exhibition, *The Savage Garden*, at Fundacion 'la Caixa', Madrid, Spain. This exhibition, curated by Dan Cameron, explored ideas of landscape as metaphor, the grey area between abstraction and representation, and the desire to deny categorization in terms of artwork that belongs to a specific medium.

The 500 Capp Street Foundation exhibition, *Box of Angels*, opening on May 12, expands on the statuary artworks made by David Ireland from 1991 through 1997. The title itself is taken from an Ireland sculpture, in which he filled a turn-of-the century museum vitrine with an overwhelming number of reproduction statuaries. "Although this particular artwork will not be on view during the exhibition, Ireland's expansive vocabulary allowing traditional Western iconography to appear in his work will be the exhibition's driving force," notes exhibition curator, Diego Villalobos.

For *Box of Angels*, The 500 Capp Street Foundation curators, Bob Linder and Diego Villalobos, will recreate and expand upon two Ireland installations, *Boulevard*, 1993 and *Angel*, 1997. Traditionally seen as mediators between heaven and earth, Ireland used angels to represent thoughts of divine spirituality, tweaking their classical and romantic traditions while continuing to think about them as abstract forms. Linder and Villalobos

will recreate *Boulevard*, 1993, Mattress Factory, a large-scale installation built with concrete lawn ornaments, within the Jensen Architects' addition of The David Ireland House. For the original 1993 installation, David Ireland used 130 statues, mostly Venuses, a few statues of David, and some winged cherubs. The current installation will include 80 plus statues, sourced from A. Silvestri Co., the same statuary business Ireland used years ago. Recognized first as temple icons, then museum pieces, and eventually ubiquitous lawn ornaments, Ireland's use of the statues in his *Boulevard* installation returned the lawn ornaments to the museum. Covering the staircase with ready-made garden figures, leaving just enough room on the side for visitors to maneuver the steps, Ireland placed such a large number of statuary into the second floor room of the museum, that it became nearly inaccessible.

In addition to *Boulevard*, the *Box of Angels* exhibition features Ireland's, *Angel*, 1997. For this work of art, Ireland temporarily deconstructed the grey fiberglass angel created for *Angel-Go-Round*, 1996 and presented the figure horizontally on the wall for his ICA Maine College of Art exhibition. During this exhibition, *Angel* was given a second life, halted from her overhead rotation in *Angel-Go-Round* and strapped to the wall like a static David Ireland monochrome. The di Rosa Collection has generously agreed to de-install and loan the angel figurine to The 500 Capp Street Foundation for the *Box of Angels* exhibition, enabling it to be presented horizontally on the wall for only the second time in 20 years.

Box of Angels is honored to feature "*Untitled*" (*Passport*), 1991 by Felix Gonzalez-Torres. The 23 x 23 x 4 inch stack of blank white paper – a minimalist object embedded with a multiplicity of meaning – temporarily resides in Ireland's guest bedroom. In the absence of information and images, the empty pages leave the question of identity, accessibility, and materiality open-ended. "The blank pages, available for the taking, involve more than just audience participation, these works were critical of the difference between outdoor works of art and true public sculpture," said Bob Linder, exhibition curator. "*Untitled*" (*Passport*) is graciously on loan from the Marieluise Hessel Collection, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

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General Tour Information

The David Ireland House offers guided tours every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, as well as pop-up Thursday Twilight Tours and other programs. Tours are \$20 general (\$15 for students and seniors), accommodate a maximum of 8 people, and are led by trained guides from the Bay Area's thriving community of artists. Advance booking is required. For more information and tickets, visit 500cappstreet.org

About David Ireland

David Ireland (1930-2009) is internationally admired for a diverse and prolific body of work concerned with the beauty inherent in everyday things and the making of art as a part of daily life. His hybrid practice blends sculpture, architecture, painting, and performance, and often draws on ordinary materials such as dirt, concrete, wood, or wire he collected over time. His work is featured in collections of prominent institutions, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Smithsonian; the San Francisco

Museum of Modern Art; and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art. Ireland's work is influenced heavily by his travels in Africa and his studies in printmaking and industrial arts at Oakland's California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts). In 2004, the Oakland Museum of California organized the first full-scale traveling retrospective of Ireland's work, which included objects and ephemera related to 500 Capp Street.

Ireland is best known for his home at 500 Capp Street, which he embedded with art and slowly transformed into a site-specific installation now regarded as the inspiration, source of materials, and repository for some of his most important work. Following a meticulous two-year restoration effort, visitors to the David Ireland House will be able to experience the late artist's enigmatic home and immerse themselves in a 360-degree portrait of one of the West Coast's most influential conceptual artists.

About The 500 Capp Street Foundation

The 500 Capp Street Foundation carries on the legacy of late conceptual artist David Ireland by affording a broad audience the opportunity to experience his home and masterpiece as well as his extant body of work. In the spirit of Ireland, the Foundation conducts public tours and events, maintains a permanent archive of personal papers, photographs, and publications, and will host a residency program, launching in 2017.

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