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**ICA PRESENTS SERIES OF TALKS ABOUT TATTOOING
INSPIRED BY DR. LAKRA EXHIBITION OPENING IN APRIL**

High resolution photo for press at http://ashmontmedia.com/lakra_photos.html

(BOSTON) The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) presents a series of three talks related to the exhibition *Dr. Lakra*—the first U.S. solo exhibition of the renowned artist and tattooist. In Dr. Lakra’s work, the idealized images of 1950s pin-up girls, wrestlers and Mexican businessmen are tattooed with drawings of demons, skulls, snakes and spiders. His playful and provocative works challenge social norms by blurring cultural identities, and serve as a perfect starting point for discussions about tattooing and the work of the artist himself. Tickets for programs with an admission price can be purchased at www.icaboston.org or by calling (617) 478-3103.

Panel Discussion: Skin

Wednesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.

See the tattoo-inspired work of Dr. Lakra, and hear from the artist and others whose work brings them in close contact with skin. They’ll discuss the challenges of creating the most personal and intimate of designs.

Panelists

Dr. Lakra is an Oaxaca-based artist, tattooist, and the subject of a solo exhibition at the ICA. The imagery in his layered works references everything from cultural traditions of body art and ancient rituals to kitschy erotica and hallucinogenic visions.

Allen Zadeh, Director of Industrial Design at Smart Design, has over 15 years in the design industry, having worked with such clients as Burton, ESPN, Microsoft, and Timberland.

Sandy Poirier, Owner of Shag Salon is a purveyor of “Rockstar Hair” and a DJ on the side. With an unapologetic mix of tattoos, toughness, and style, his canvas includes both hair and skin. His South Boston salon has been featured on MTV, the Style Network, and TLC.

Moderator **Stephanie Murg** is a New York-based writer and art adviser whose interests lie at the nexus of art, design, fashion, and capital markets. She is an editor of the influential design blog unBeige, named one of 12 sites that “define cool” by *Newsweek*.

This program is co-presented with AIGA and made possible through the generosity of Vivien and Alan Hassenfeld.

Tickets: \$10 members, students, and seniors; \$15 general admission.

Artist Talk: Dr. Lakra

Thursday, April 15, 6 p.m.

Join the artist and exhibition curator Pedro Alonzo in the galleries for a conversation about Dr. Lakra’s ICA exhibition and the role of tattooing in his art.

Talk and museum admission are free on Target Free Thursday Night 5-9 p.m.

Panel Discussion: On Pins & Needles: Tattooing in Massachusetts

Thursday, April 15, 7 p.m.

Although tattooing was first introduced to Bostonians in the 1840s, it was just 10 years ago that a Massachusetts ban on tattooing (except by medical physicians) was deemed unconstitutional by a Suffolk Superior Court judge. Helping to overthrow this ban was Sarah Wunsch, staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. Join Wunsch and exhibition curator Pedro Alonzo for a look back at the commonwealth’s long and complicated history with this art form.

Tickets: \$8 members, students and seniors; \$10 general admission.

About the Dr. Lakra exhibition

The ICA presents the first U.S. solo exhibition of Dr. Lakra, a Mexico-based artist and world-renowned tattooist. In Dr. Lakra’s work, the idealized images of 1950s pin-up girls, wrestlers and Mexican businessmen are tattooed with drawings of demons, skulls, snakes and spiders. No surface escapes the artist’s pen—everything from vintage magazines and Japanese prints to plastic cups and Kewpie dolls are covered with his provocative and macabre drawings. The work combines a diverse range of patterns and symbols—such as Chicano, Maori, Thai and ancient Aztec imagery—with pop culture and erotica to create a tantalizing mix of life, death and desire. On view from April 14 to Sept. 6, *Dr. Lakra* presents over 60 works, including a new drawing that will cover an entire wall. The *Dr. Lakra* exhibition is sponsored by Converse.

About the ICA

An influential forum for multi-disciplinary arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art has been at the leading edge of art in Boston for more than 70 years. Like its iconic building on Boston's waterfront, the ICA

offers new ways of engaging with the world around us. Its exhibitions and programs provide access to contemporary art, artists, and the creative process, inviting audiences of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the excitement of new art and ideas. The ICA, located at 100 Northern Avenue, is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 am - 5 pm; Thursday and Friday, 10 am - 9 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm. Admission is \$15 adults, \$10 seniors and students, and free for members and children 17 and under. ICA Free Admission for Youth is sponsored by State Street Foundation. Free admission on Target Free Thursday Nights, 5 - 9 pm. Free admission for families at ICA Play Dates (2 adults + children 12 and under) on the last Saturday of the month. For more information, call 617-478-3100 or visit our Web site at www.icaboston.org.

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