

Paul Booth:
Cruciatus Aeternum
Solo Exhibition

Opening Reception:
Saturday, November 19th, 5pm

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND (November 19th, 2011) — The HR Giger Museum presents ***Cruciatus Aeternum***; works by **Paul Booth**.

Painter, tattooist and entrepreneur Paul Booth has become an internationally recognized figure and a pioneer in gaining mainstream recognition for the dark arts movement. In what will be his first showing in Switzerland, this exhibition presents an evolution of his artwork over the past 10 years- in paint, mixed media, and tattoo.

In addition to Paul's exhibition, The opening reception will feature a live painting collaboration with Paul and his co-founders of "The ArtFusion Experiment", Filip and Titine Leu. The painting created at the event will remain for the duration of Paul's exhibit.

"In my mid-teens, I spent countless hours obsessed with trying to understand and emulate Giger's art. His books were one of my greatest teachers of the few I had. I became lost in his dark surreal worlds, and not many since have been able to captivate my imagination with such unrelenting force. In my own way, I have always tried to do the same, as that to me is a crucial element to artistic expression. Giger is the reason that light and shade, dimension and texture have always been a major focus for me in my art- whether it be on canvas, skin, or otherwise. Now I find myself, 30 years later, honored to be showing my art in Giger's museum. I suppose I chose to treat this show somewhat as a timeline because it represents a culmination in my life's work thus far. While it closes a circle for me historically, it simultaneously marks the beginning of an entirely new era as I can only evolve from this experience. I can't even imagine where I will go from here and I think that is what has me most excited."

About The Artist:

His exceptional capacity to transform horror and the macabre into dark art that inspires even the most skeptical individual, Paul Booth inevitably translates one's innermost fears and poisonous experiences into visual exorcisms that ultimately serve to decontaminate the soul. Paul's unique perception of the world around him combined with an insightful knowledge of art broadens his scope into many disciplines including Tattooing, Painting, Sculpture and Film. While he is most known for his 24 years as a tattoo artist, Paul continues to be revered for his dedication to the evolution of his craft as well as his efforts to elevate the medium into the realm of fine art. Widely considered a master of the art form, Paul has earned international acclaim with innumerable tattoo awards and extensive media coverage resulting in a rather unique global cult following. Notably, Paul has achieved the honor of being the first tattoo artist ever to be inducted into The National Arts Club. Founded 110 years ago, the NAC is the oldest and one of the most respected art institutions in the United States today.

Paul's infamous reputation also comes from his extensive tattoo art worn by many famous musicians in the metal scene such as members of Slayer, Slipknot, Pantera, Down, Lamb of God and many more. Other notable clients include Greg Allman and Nicholas Cage. In 2002, *Rolling Stone Magazine* featured Booth and proudly crowned him "The New King of Rock Tattoos". His waiting list for a tattoo is currently over 3 years long.

About The ArtFusion Experiment:

In 2000, Paul co-founded an international charitable art organization called "The *ArtFusion Experiment*" with world renowned tattoo peers, Filip and Titine Leu. This tattoo-centric art movement which focuses its energy on a unique collaborative art concept demonstrates the strength of the contemporary tattoo artist's ability to work together as a community. This aspect of AFE allows the artist to put their egos aside and collaboratively fuse their individual styles to achieve unequalled works of art. It also gives the artist the opportunity to be both a student and a teacher simultaneously. This unique nature of AFE provides Artists from around the world a chance to create together in perfect harmony regardless of language barriers. The ArtFusion Experiment truly speaks the universal language of art in every sense of the word.

The **H.R. Giger Museum** opened in June of 1998, in Gruyeres, Switzerland. It showcases the largest collection of Giger's work on permanent public display, encompassing his paintings, sculptures, furniture and film designs, including his work on "Alien", "Poltergeist", and "Species". The top floor of the Museum houses Giger's private collection, which includes over 600 works of art by Salvador Dali, Ernst Fuchs, Dado, Bruno Weber, Günther Brus, Claude Sandoz, François Burland, Friedrich Kuhn, Joe Coleman, Sibylle Ruppert, Andre Lassen, among many others.

The H.R. Giger Museum Gallery is located in the adjoining wing of the museum complex, above the H.R. Giger Museum Bar. There, since 1999, and now on a twice a year rotating basis, Giger utilizes the three room exhibition space to show the work of artists, mostly those already in his private collection, in an effort to help broaden the art appreciation of visitors to his museum. Previous exhibitions have been for Wessi, Prof. Ernst Fuchs, Hans Bellmer, Fred Knecht, Stelio Diamantopoulos, Martin Schwarz, Claude Sandoz, Günther Brus, François Burland, Rudolf Stüssi, Victor Safonkin and Sibylle Ruppert.

An exhibition catalogue will be printed for "Cruciatus Aeternum". The artist will be present at the opening.

Booth's solo exhibition at the H.R. Giger Museum Gallery will run for six months. For more information, visit: www.HRGigerMuseum.com

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