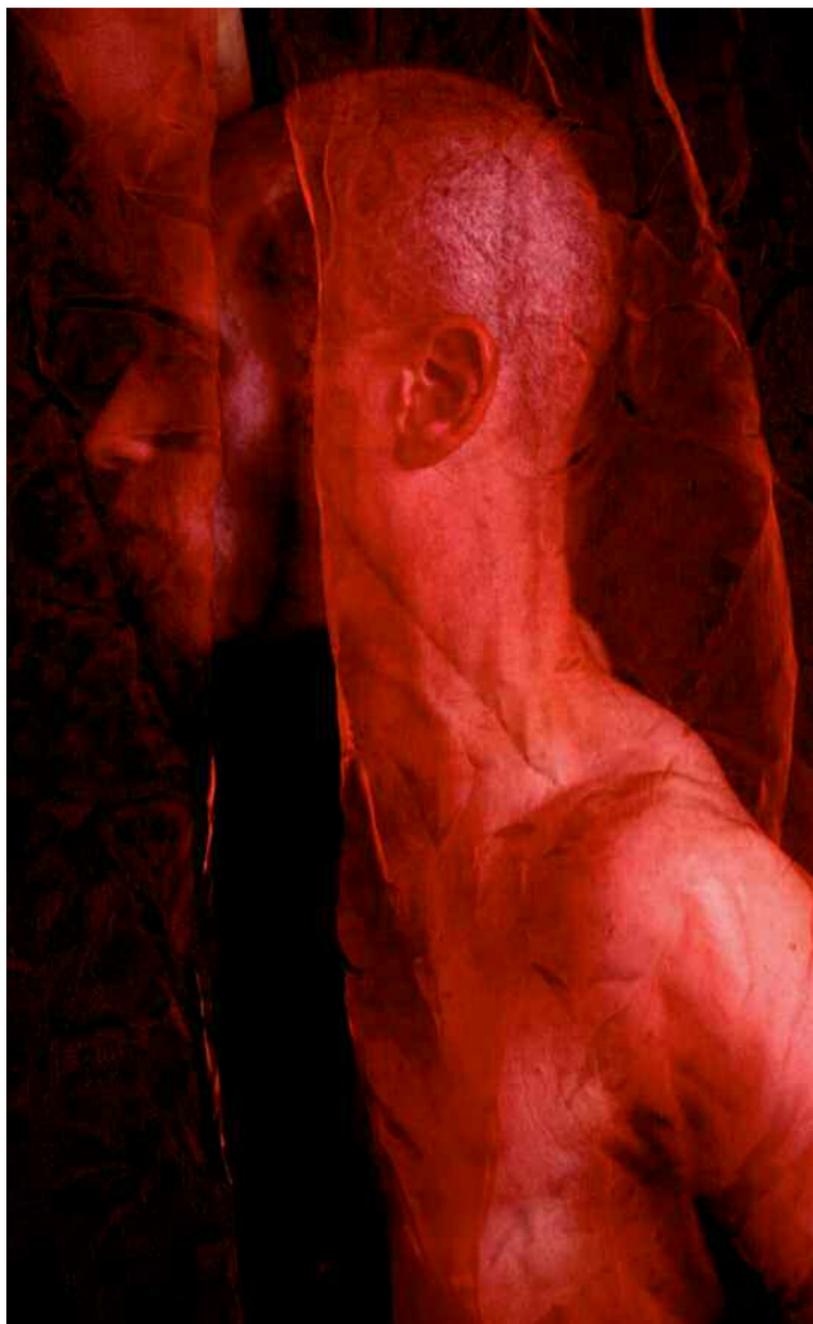


C L I F F O R D  
C H A N C E



Annual Pride Art Exhibition –  
London

Summer 2011

# Annual Pride Art Exhibition – London

We are pleased to present our Annual Pride Art Exhibition, organised by Arcus, Clifford Chance's LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) employee networks in London and New York to celebrate Gay Pride.

The London component of the exhibition features works by Guy Burch, Maya Chowdhry, Åsa Johannesson, Garry Parsons, Caroline Smith, Robert Taylor and Konrad Wyrebek – each with a unique approach and practice. We would like to thank the artists for lending their work to the exhibition and for providing the statements about their practice. Thanks also to Michael Petry for his curation of the exhibition.

At Clifford Chance, we are committed to enhancing diversity at the Firm and to fostering a supportive work environment in which all employees can develop to their fullest potential and contribute their best work to the success of the firm and its clients, without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, citizenship status, pregnancy, disability, or any other status protected by law.

In addition to organising the Annual Pride Art Exhibition, the Americas and London chapters of Arcus (Clifford Chance's global LGBT and allies community) are each involved in a number of activities throughout the year, including pro bono legal work and financial sponsorship for LGBT community and charitable organisations.

## What is Diversity?

What is Diversity? The dictionary says that it is “a state of difference; dissimilitude; unlikeness” and that it is also a “Multiplicity of difference; multiformity; variety”. I personally like the idea of variety, it sounds so much more positive, it is inclusive as opposed to oppositional. The differences between “difference” and “multiplicity” are profound, they speak of a state of thinking, a way of being, one enhancing, engaging and perhaps embracing. How much better things would be if we all saw diversity as a positive yet, despite the existence of European laws, a Eurobarometer survey Discrimination in the EU in 2009, showed that many Europeans believe that discrimination is still widespread, with people most likely to be discriminated against on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin (61%), age (58%), disability (53%), sexual orientation (47%) and religion or belief (39%).

This survey shows diversity in a negative light, it posits diversity as a problem and not a possibility, I am sure that was not the EU's intention but it is an institutional response that is based in solving problems, and at the moment those of us in the LGBT community are somewhat seen as problems, or at least whose day-to-day problems (which of course everyone has) are somehow different from the majority. The LGBT community is still striving for full legal equality across the EU and America but those are human rights, not special ones. If anything it is not those of us in the minority that have a problem with our lives, but more that the mainstream has yet to live and let live.

The Clifford Chance Pride exhibition is a moment of positivity, inclusion and variety. This year I have attempted to show the broad church (as it were) of LGBT creativity and hope the inherent vitality of the works comes across as positive. We have included performance, sculpture, painting and video this year. I have selected artists with their own individual vision, many of whom use portraiture as a means of artistic exploration, while others are more openly political (but no less poetic). Their commitment to their work is self-evident, as are their skills, and artistry, yet the images and objects they produce are wonderfully varied. I am sure it will be exciting if a bit challenging, but also very beautiful, and as Oscar Wilde said “Beauty is a form of genius – is higher, indeed, than genius, as it needs no explanation. It is of the great facts in the world like sunlight, or springtime, or the reflection in dark water of that silver shell we call the moon.” So then here's to the beauty of diversity, to the genius of acceptance, and the pleasure of looking.

Michael Petry, Curator

## Åsa Johannesson

Lives and works in London.

Åsa Johannesson is a visual artist working with photography. She graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2009. She has received several awards for her work, which has been exhibited internationally and was shortlisted for the Deutsche Bank Award 2009. The solo show *The Boy & The Twins* will be exhibited in Sweden in 2011.

Åsa's recent work has predominantly focused on masculinity as a form of self-expression. "*The Boy & The Twins* is the result of my ongoing enquiry into the relationship between gendered embodiment and subjectivity within the photographic portrait. With *The Boy & The Twins*, I have aimed to open up new possibilities of gender constructions by using the space between the concepts of 'boy' and 'girl'. When I met the English boy Jacob, who identifies as transgender, he became a sort of reminder of my twin-sister and my childhood tomboy personas. By shifting between playfulness and seriousness *The Boy & The Twins* invites the viewer to explore a world where the notion of gender is malleable. Each image becomes a fantasy world of masculinity where colour, gestures and gazes form a multi-layered narrative. *Portraits of Him* focuses on masculinity as a form of identity. In these portraits of men identifying transgender, the sitters' embodiment of masculinity is used in order to re-think the notion of identity; who we feel we are, who we want to be and who we want to be perceived as. *Portraits of Him* attempts to portray a longing, culminating in the desire to become *him*". – Asa Johannesson

[www.asajohannesson.com](http://www.asajohannesson.com)



Åsa Johannesson *Portraits of Him #4* from the series *Portraits of Him* 2007 digital c-print

## Caroline Smith

Lives and works in London.

Caroline Smith is an artist, performer and Teaching Fellow, she has previously performed at theatres and galleries including Tramway Theatre for the National Review of Live Art, Tate Modern, South Bank Centre and the Roundhouse where her show *Eating Secret* was reviewed as “deliciously dark” (The Guardian) and “curiously cathartic” (The Times).

Earlier this year, in a project led by Sally O'Reilly, she has co-devised a sitcom exploring new ways of representing the art world, performed live at the ICA and Whitechapel Gallery.

*I look You in The Eye* is her most recent work and continues her exploration of the qualities and experiences of exchange in performance, arising from her and Dr Paola Tubaro's University of Greenwich funded research project, *Uncivil Bodies*.

The portraits on show are from documentation at the South Bank Centre and Vogue Fabrics, in collaboration with photographers Christa Holka and Ania Bas.

[www.carolinesmithonline.com](http://www.carolinesmithonline.com)



Caroline Smith *I Look You in The Eye*. South Bank Centre, London 2011  
Photo: Christa Holka

## Garry Parsons

Lives and works in London.

Inspired by traditional paper folding techniques and Japanese super flat art, Parsons' works in paper explore the lives of playful characters involved in 'inner life' struggles. Representing energies within the body, the protagonists are on a journey of self-discovery, undergoing alchemical transformations through the challenges of modern life, their only desire to discern truth from illusion.

Reminiscent of the Buddhist mandala, and using familiar graphic motifs, the works are concerned with representing the inner world through narrative and historical uses of paper folding.

[www.garryparsons.co.uk](http://www.garryparsons.co.uk)



Garry Parsons *The Rude Truth* 2010 paper

## Guy Burch

Lives and works in London.

“My work often involves self-reflective heads or curious boxes with images or objects inside that are metaphors. I am fascinated by secrets and hidden places: the fact we can never get into someone else’s head fully (even those we love) to see what is there. The urge to do so, I sometimes think, is why we have sex, ask ‘what are you thinking?’ and look inside locked drawers or read other people’s diaries. But you can never be sure you really know. Artists mostly want you to see what they see and feel what they feel, but with these sculptures, mostly self portraits, you actually have to look inside my head like a peepshow. They are not editioned but unique objects, sculpted first in clay, that I cast in resin and hand finish individually to deceive. Intriguing visual parables that disturb assumptions, surprise or even bite”. – Guy Burch.

[www.guyburch.co.uk](http://www.guyburch.co.uk)



Guy Burch *Desiccation* 2010 mixed media

## Konrad Wyrebek

Lives and works in London.

Konrad Wyrebek's practice is focused primarily on painting, but also digitally manipulated imagery and installation. He has shown at the Saatchi Gallery and the Matt Roberts Foundation, and Tate Modern when his paintings were selected for a series of giant scale projections. Konrad was featured in a Saatchi Gallery report on the emerging London artists of 2010.

"The starting point of my paintings is nearly always images found online. I'm looking for images that have the potential to become something else than they are at the moment I find them. Transformation interests me - how people or things can change, but particularly how we can make them change from our viewpoint. These possibilities of enrichment in meaning excite me.

In each painting I try to apply a critical edge, investigating concepts such as modern slavery; ideals of beauty in relation to our consumer society; mysticism in an age of science; sexual expression; new religion and beyond. I aspire to evoke some sense of these ideas in the viewer but not for them to draw any obvious conclusions or statements. Instead I hope that they start to look for connections with the way they live, and the way they think others live". – Konrad Wyrebek

Konrad also creates 3D installations, performance-based works and photography.

[www.konradwyrebek.blogspot.com](http://www.konradwyrebek.blogspot.com)



Konrad Wyrebek *Olivia Palermo and her boyfriend*, model Johannes Huebl 2011 oil on canvas

## Maya Chowdhry

Lives and works in Manchester.

Maya Chowdhry's work is predominantly site-specific Installation, combining film, animation and photography, and exploring the mechanisms of power through the mirror of the natural world.

Maya's work has been exhibited in public gardens, theatres, galleries, on television and the world-wide-web. In *Final Cause*, an Installation sited in Hulme Community Garden Centre, she mourns the loss of an ice-bridge in Antarctica. In *Where will we be Without the Seeds* she utilises stop-motion animation; sowing cress seeds into paper to grow a Haiku. This work laments the 80,000 varieties of edible plants that are not grown for food in a world where 800 million people suffer from malnutrition.

"I like the immersive quality of Installation – you don't know where the boundary of the art is; where you end and it begins. This has a parallel with our global responsibility for the world we live in and how we can realise harmony and balance". – Maya Chowdhry

[www.interactiveartist.org](http://www.interactiveartist.org)



Maya Chowdhry *Ice Bridge* from the series *Final Cause* 2009 photograph

## Robert Taylor (cover)

Lives and works in Oxford.

"I create portraits; anything from a simple facial likeness to playful or abstract figure studies created in collaboration with my subject. It's an amusing way to feed my curiosity about people and their ways". – Robert Taylor

*"The secret of producing a good photographic portrait is to engage the subject in a collaborative effort in which both parties bring something to the final result. Clearly this is something present in Robert Taylor's engaging and provocative collection of characters. He gives his subjects their individuality and a voice, as well as making the images unique to his own personal artistic and cultural interpretation ..."*, Terence Pepper, Curator of Photographs, The National Portrait Gallery, London

"I continue to create people-based projects in collaboration with artists in other media, and for a wide variety of clients". – Robert Taylor

Taylor's photographs are held in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery, the V&A, and The Royal Society.

[www.taylor-photo.co.uk](http://www.taylor-photo.co.uk)



Robert Taylor *Blue Boy* 2009 giclee print

### The dates of the London exhibition are:

16 June – 28 July 2011

The exhibition is open by appointment on Fridays between 12:00 – 18:00, contact Nigel Frank at [nigel.frank@cliffordchance.com](mailto:nigel.frank@cliffordchance.com) or on 020 7006 5384.

All works are for sale.

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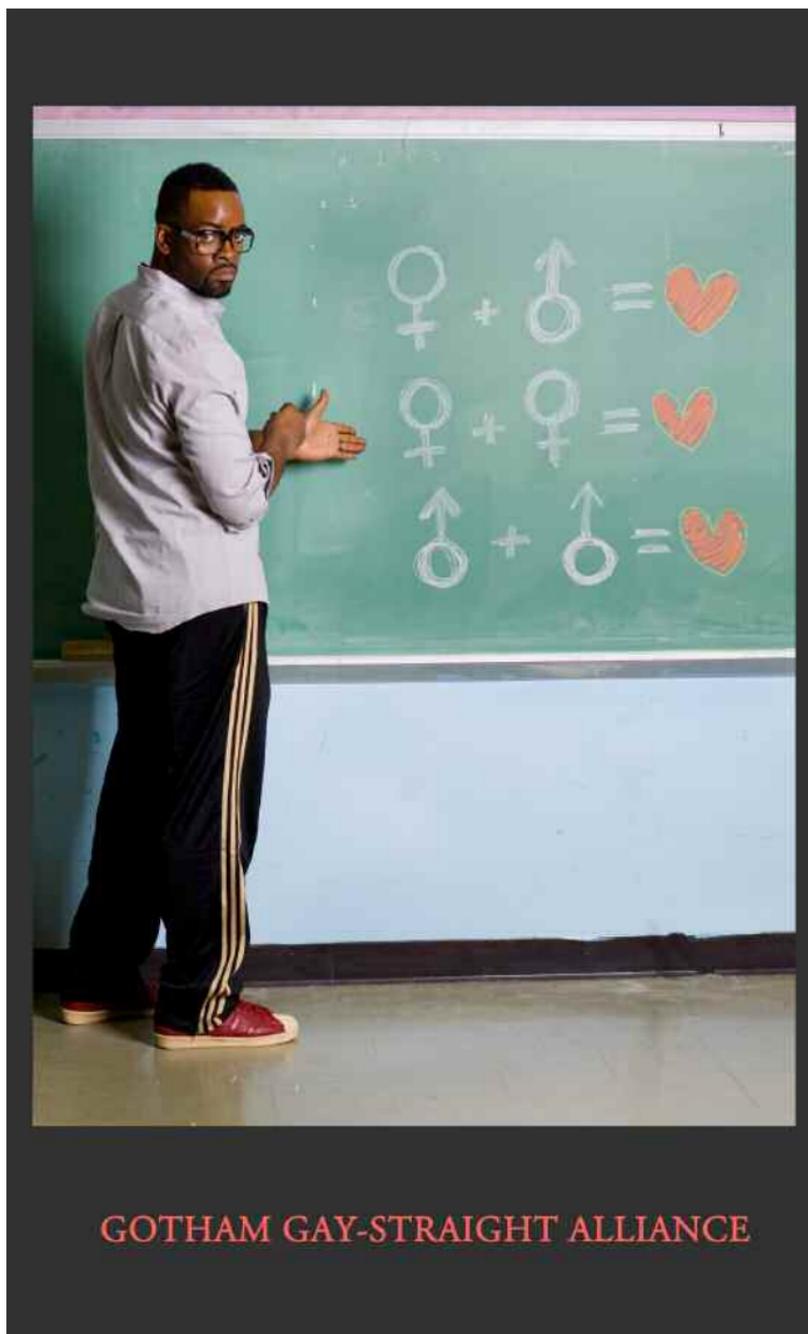
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Works courtesy of the artists.

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[www.cliffordchance.com](http://www.cliffordchance.com)

Cover image: Robert Taylor *Stephan Red*  
giclee print

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GOTHAM GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

Annual Pride Art Exhibition –  
New York

Summer 2011

# Annual Pride Art Exhibition – New York

In celebration of Gay Pride Month, Clifford Chance proudly presents the fifth edition of the Annual Pride Art Exhibition in its New York City Office. This year, Arcus Americas sponsored artist Lisa Ross and oral historian Svetlana Kitto to develop a program for high school students from the Gotham Professional Arts Academy's GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Through the course of a semester-long series of workshops led by Ross and Kitto, the students developed large-scale banners that address issues related to identity, visibility and acceptance. The banners will be exhibited at Clifford Chance during June, July and August, followed by an exhibition at the school. The students also will participate in the June 15th opening reception for the exhibition.

At Clifford Chance, we are committed to enhancing diversity at the Firm and to fostering a supportive work environment in which all employees can develop to their fullest potential and contribute their best work to the success of the firm and its clients, without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, citizenship status, pregnancy, disability, or any other status protected by law.

In addition to organizing the Annual Pride Art Exhibition, the Americas and London chapters of Arcus (Clifford Chance's global LGBT and allies community) are each involved in a number of activities throughout the year, including pro bono legal work and financial sponsorship for LGBT community and charitable organizations.

## The GSA Banner Project

The Gotham GSA Banner Project came together when Arcus Americas voiced an interest in sponsoring an artist/educational collaborative as part of its Annual Pride Art Exhibition. Arcus Americas developed the idea with the firm's curator, Jacob Robichaux, who reached out to artist Lisa Ross. Having taught photography to LGBT youth at the Harvey Milk High School for a decade, Ross suggested working with a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at a high school. GSAs are a relatively new development in American schools—that are quickly gaining in popularity—and aim to provide a safe space for youth that promotes tolerance and compassion. Ross came up with the idea that a GSA would work with an artist to create graphically exciting, large-format banners that combine text and image to address the concerns of the GSA and selected the newly-formed GSA at Gotham Professional Arts Academy in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn for the Project. Students in the GSA at Gotham would have the opportunity to create and exhibit their work at Clifford Chance and in their own high school.

The project started with a visit to Clifford Chance, where the students met members of Arcus Americas and other members of the Diversity Committee and got an opportunity to exchange histories with the lawyers and staff—across generations. Jassiem Garcia spoke on behalf of the GSA and explained why he started the group: “I just wanted a place where people can be comfortable in their skin and where I can feel comfortable in mine.” GSA member Jaelynn Pittman chimed in that she was tired of boys making fun of a friend of hers just because he was different: “The truth is they are all jealous because he has so many girlfriends and they wish they did.” She explained that she had joined the GSA to support him. The students got to view the CC exhibition space where their work would later hang and then crossed the street to the Museum of Modern Art, where they met an arts educator and were introduced to the kind of work they would be making.

The task became: How do we generate discussion that would result in catchy phrases and powerful imagery that represent the GSA's ideas and goals? Svetlana Kitto, oral historian and writer, joined the Project to hammer out the language portion of the banners. She thought: What if the students interviewed one another in an oral history style about the GSA—why they joined, why it was important to them, what they wanted to see it accomplish? Once the interviews were transcribed, the students would not only have quotes and ideas to work with for their banners but would get to know each other in the process.

Students then used their transcripts to brainstorm eye-grabbing text-and-image ideas with Ross and Kitto. Once ideas were finalized, Ross set up a photo studio at the school complete with professional lighting and state-of-the-art equipment. With guidance from Ross, students set the scene and took their own artful photos. In the final two weeks, students were instructed in Photoshop and laid out their banners on screen, combining their text-and-image ideas into a finished product.

Beyond teaching the students about art, artmaking, interviewing and writing, the Project has also brought the GSA closer. “Before we began the banner project I was unsure of people's names in the GSA,” said GSA member Christine Collazo. “Since we started, however, I've

noticed that everyone seems to be much closer to each other; we have gained a connection with each other thanks to this project.” Jassiem Garcia agreed; and having expected “all business and no play” was “surprised to see so many laughs come out of the project.” The students are also excited about the effect the banners will have at school. Said Charmaine Amey: “I am really looking forward to how the student body is going to react to the banners—their response could be negative or positive. Either way, it will spark conversation and hopefully raise more questions.” At Gotham’s Exhibition Night in May, the GSA dedicated a classroom to raise awareness among students, parents, and teachers using their new banners.

With the help of Arcus Americas and the Banner Project, it seems the Gotham Gay-Straight Alliance, only in its first semester, is off to a great start!

Special thanks to Gotham’s principal, Alex White, whose support made the Project run smoothly and to Shelby Mitchell, Gotham’s social worker, who has been an advisor to the GSA since its formation.

Svetlana Kitto

In the GSA

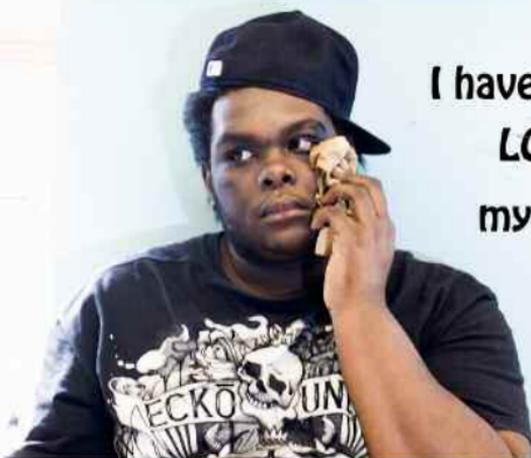
I can

BE

MYSELF



On the train ride home



I have to  
**LOSE**  
myself.

GOTHAM GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

**We're All Made In God's Image**



**Gotham Gay-Straight Alliance**

**HOMOPHOBIA,**



**GOTHAM GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE**



**JUST**

**LIKE**

**YOU**

**GOTHAM GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE**



Gay Is Not An  
Insult



GOTHAM GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

~~Batty man fi dead~~

**Gay man fi live**



~~Queers must be killed~~

**Queers must be loved**

~~Please mark my words~~

**Please mark my words**



~~Gimme that tee nine~~

**Gimme that peace sign**

~~Shoot dem like bird~~

**Let dem fly free like bird**



**Let dem queers fly free like**



**BIRD**

GOTHAM GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

**The dates of the New York exhibition are:**

June 1 – August 31, 2011

The exhibition is open by appointment,  
contact Jennifer Giangrande Marco on 212-880-5829/3166.

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Clifford Chance US LLP  
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Works courtesy of students from the Gotham Professional Arts Academy's Gay-Straight Alliance.