



JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

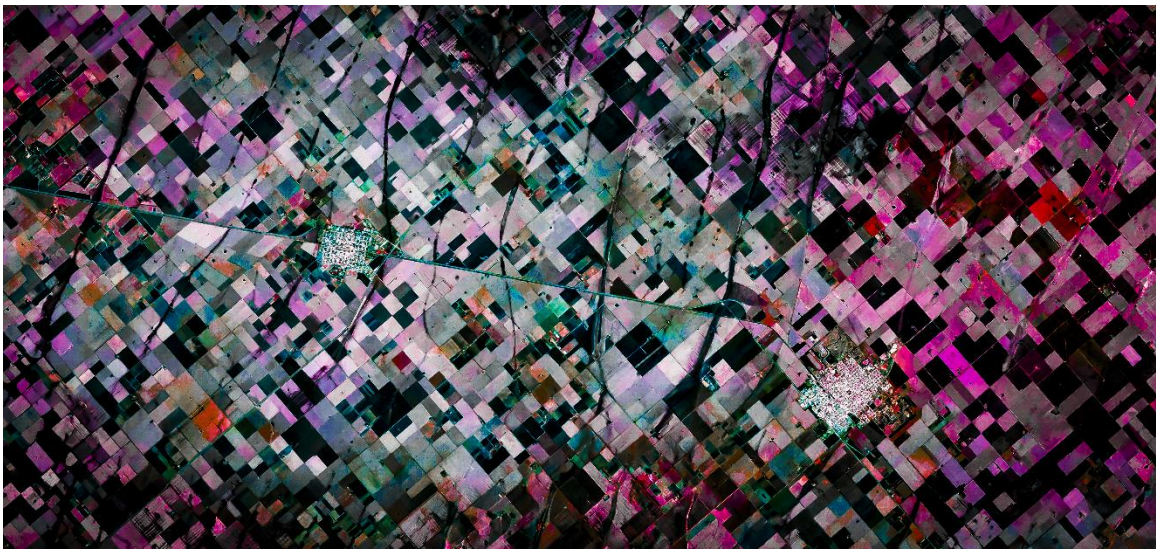
06.30.2015

Press release for immediate release

FRESH! Group Exhibition

JanKossen Contemporary
529 W 20th Street 6 floor

Opening Vernissage: Thursday July 16th, 6 - 8pm



Federico Winer, "Pampa IV Alta" from the *Ultradistancia* series, digital photograph, from google maps, 2015

New York, NY. ... Between July 16th 2015 and August 15th 2015, JanKossen Contemporary is pleased to present our inaugural juried exhibition "FRESH!" featuring works by 15 emerging artists.

Zeren Badar | New York, New York
Sofia Echa | New York, New York
Adrienne Gaither | Washington D.C.
Rachel Niekamp | Dayton, Ohio
Lia Porto | Buenos Aires, Argentina
Rebecca Rose | Davenport, Florida
Rahshia Sawyer | Sterling, Virginia
Freda Sue, Greenville, South Carolina

Heather Comparetto | St. Petersburg, Florida
Christopher Paul Dean | Atlanta, Georgia
Chad Burton Johnson | Birmingham, Alabama
Christopher Parrott | Huntington, New York
Olan Quattro | Sarasota, Florida
Anastasia Samoylova | Chicago, Illinois
Federico Winer | Buenos Aires, Argentina

JanKossen Contemporary 529 W. 20th Street, 6th Floor, New York, New York 10011 - 631.903.5564
Gallery Hours: Tues-Friday 10:30am-6:30pm, Saturday 11:00am-6:00pm
www.JanKossen.com | info@jankossen.com



JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

FRESH! is both a platform for young, emerging talent as well as an opportunity for young collectors to discover art for their fledgling collection.

Based on the criteria of originality, execution and concept, selected artists explore the theory of perceived space, time and identity in relation to their own individual understanding within contemporary culture and society. Using both their own personal interpretation and that of the viewer; the artists selected demonstrate the concept of "contemporary" via their lack of a uniform method; the show is a diverse platform combining photography, classical painting, abstract constructionism, collages and sculpture.

One of the cornerstones of contemporary art is the philosophy that the viewer plays a role by responding, reacting and interpreting art - even completing the artwork by contributing their own personal reflections and interpretations. With this in mind, the exhibition offers the viewer a rich resource through which to re-consider and re-think that which is considered familiar; the viewer is invited to play an active role in the construction of meanings that are both apparent and hidden.



Anastasia Samoylova, "Glaciers", 2015 Digital Photograph, 24x36"

Chicago based photographer **Anastasia Samoylova** explores the way photography illustrates "the beautiful" and "the nature" in contemporary visual culture. Inspired by screensavers of retouched landscapes; the artist re-cycles open source images and advertisements into new imaginary; re-creating the concept of the landscape into a "still life". The transformation is meant to further subvert the original maker's intention. Samoylova's work has been featured in the New Yorker and the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, Illinois.



JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

Photographs from **Zeren Bader's** "accidental series" are collages made found objects laid on top of media images, photographs and reproductions of familiar paintings. The objects introduced into the *sometimes* familiar work, are reminiscent of early mixed media works such those by Robert Rauschenberg. Largely influenced by the DaDa movement, the objects are often accidentally combined with the image; and serve to enhance a suggested idea that is open to interpretation by the viewer - often tongue-in-cheek. The artist lives and works in New York.



Zeren Bader, "Art is Fresh", 2015
Digital Photograph, Mixed Media 11x17"

St. Petersburg based photographer **Heather Comparetto** is inspired by visual poetry in photography. Comparetto's underwater series are created intuitively, transforming *the ordinary* into surreal images that magnify reality. She distorts her otherwise formal photographs and juxtaposes them in a way that manipulates the mood of the viewer.

Sofia Echa's paintings are abstracts etched in metal. Her study in using different mediums and bases serve as an expression of her own personal language. The abstract forms inspired by the female form, nature and sensuality, allow the viewer to create their own interpretation within her artwork. Echa currently lives and works in New York, New York.



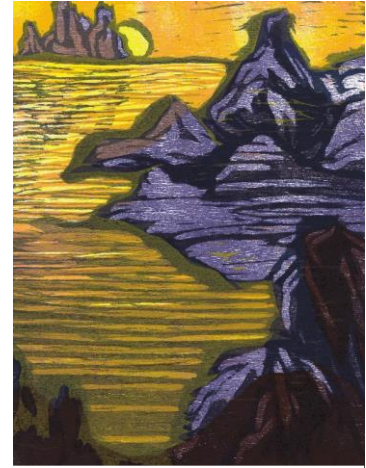
Olan Quattro, "Conversation," 2015
Mixed Media 16x20"

Sarasota, Florida based mixed media artist **Olan Quattro** explores the perception of memory and allegory in her collaged works. By layering old photographs, vintage books and personal memories, Quattro obscures what lies beneath, reminiscent of fading memories. Inspiration gleaned from traveling, fairy tales, and myths, the artist raises the question of what is unseen and unsolved, and invites the viewer to ask themselves what lies beneath the obvious.



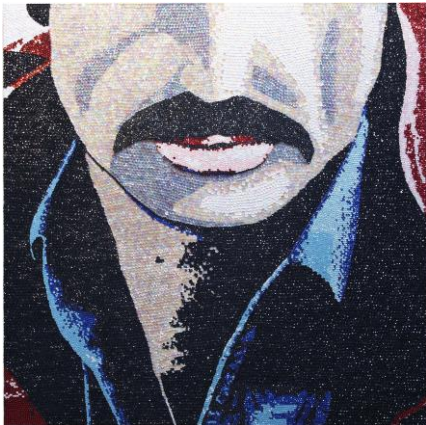
JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

Freda Sue's relief woodblock prints reflect on human relationships with the environment. Sue is inspired by ancient Chinese culture, and her current body of work, "Mentors", is inspired by an ancient Chinese poems written on the Wall of the West Forest Temple by Su Shi. In the Chinese language, the character for "reason" explains that people encounter one another in life for specific purposes. Sue's body is physically involved in the work; she repeats the motions of carving and constructing, and in that moment she is *wholly devoted* to it- her prints create a dialogue that encourage the viewer to engage with their surroundings, and to live in the present. Sue is currently based in Greenville, South Carolina.



Freda Sue, "Royal Triumph," 2015
Relief Woodblock Print 12x9"

Christopher Parrott's paintings are set in a fictional gallery space, featuring a fictional body of work by a fictional artist. Interested in how identities and individual narratives are constructed in contemporary life, His real-life paintings capture performers and observers playing out well-worn archetypes within incompatible narratives. Exhibitionism and voyeurism are significant themes in Parrott's work, and he deliberately conflates personal history with broader cultural narratives. Parrott is currently based in Huntington, New York.



Chad Burton Johnson, "Burt," 2012
Sequins and Mixed Media on Wood, 36x36"

Chad Burton Johnson's work is an ongoing investigation into the perceptions and social standards of masculinity, death and cultural norms in the Deep South. Johnson highlights these subjects through his personal narrative of hyper-masculine and historical imagery; his paintings combined with non-traditional materials such as sequins and rhinestones. The art is both visually compelling, yet weighs heavy on social issues. Johnson's work has been featured at the Orlando Museum of Art. The artist is based in Birmingham, Alabama.



JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

Buenos Aires based photographer **Federico Winer** uses imagery from Google Earth to "...play with the way we see our planet from above." Specifically, his *Ultradistancia* project is both about perception, and a celebration of photography and the multiple forms it can take - weather through the lens of a camera, or the screen of a computer. Winer's imagery allows his audience to vicariously travel above large cities, fields and neighborhoods and aerially view the new portrait of earth that has been created. Winer's *Ultradistancia* project has been featured in the Huffington Post.

Washington D.C. based artist **Adrienne Gaither** focuses on the mundane that we interact with daily. The artist dissects the common structures of the alphabet A-Z to combine *form and content as image*. Hence the artist frees herself from the confines of legibility required in graphic design; and in turn the viewer is offered a visual experience of information that lies beyond text and readability. Gaither's work bridges the gap between the past, present and future; highlighting the dichotomy of what we believe we see, what we want to see and what is actually there. In an age where many people rely heavily on technology for information, Gaither is obsessed with the manner in which perception, information, and expression have been flattened by modern technology. The conclusion, if any, is left to the viewer's discretion.

Atlanta based artist **Christopher Paul Dean** explores the potentiality of entities that are defined by a certain set of historical rules, bodily interactions, and preconceived frameworks. His minimal, thought-provoking sculptures and framed pieces demand a specific level of manual and theoretical labor; which in turn offer a dialogue between both body (the viewer) and object.



Christopher Paul Dean,
"Circular Dowel Composition No. 1", 2015
Wood, Paint. 21 x 21"



JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

Rachel Niekamp's photographs invite the viewer to find meaning in her rearrangement of common, domestic scenes. The artist presents common objects in a new and intriguing way photographed in her apartment, an opportunity to explore a familiar space in a minimalistic manner. When creating a scene, it is vital to see the potential of the objects in a new way that is not associated with its functionality. In her *incipit* series she alters familiar scenarios, adding a twist to the intended purpose of each photograph thereby making them compelling and distinct. Hence, she prompts the viewers to begin forming connections and narratives that were not present in the work; to engage and react in the scene presented. Niekamp is based in Dayton, Ohio.



Rachel Niekamp, "Untitled I", 2015
Digital Photo, 16x20"



Rahshia Sawyer, "Some things I can't explain 210", 2015
Digital Photo, 20x30"

Rahshia Sawyer is a California native, who grew up in Thailand and currently resides in the Washington D.C. area. Sawyer takes photographs as an inquiry into the existential questions of reality, identity and belief systems put in place by the individual. She discusses life-changing events and questions associated with them: "Will things ever be normal again?", "When will things settle down?" Her photographs reflect a sense of disconnect from oneself and their environment.

Buenos Aires based painter **Lia Porto** creates work that "goes beyond the limits of words." Porto considers her work to be a translation and development of a non-verbal and non-intellectual language. Every detail of her work corresponds with information that she describes as "being weaved through the image". The completed painting, or *final reading* - is ambiguous, open and organic. Visually, the work takes elements from nature that are re-interpreted by Porto creating a "natural fiction".



JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

Davenport, Florida based artist **Rebecca Rose** creates wearable, "sculpturings" that are completely designed and fabricated by Rose. Her rings are reminiscent of childhood toys, game pieces and organic materials that convey a narrative or story. She recycles objects and elements that find their way into the mixed wax she uses to create her metal rings, and new life is then breathed into once discarded items, becoming precious metal - something to now be cherished and treasured. Each ring is a reflection of understanding human ingenuity, behavior and habits.



Select artists will be present at the opening. FRESH! runs through August 15th, 2015.

For additional information and press inquiries:

Sherri Littlefield
sherri@jankossen.com

Anastasiia Morozova
anastasiia@jankossen.com

JanKossen Contemporary

529 W. 20th Street, 6th Floor
New York, New York, 10011
631-903-5564