



JanKossen Contemporary Art Gallery NEW YORK

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For immediate release

**JanKossen Contemporary**

529W 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Fl.6, New York, 10011

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An in-depth press release can be found on our blog & website.

## "FRESH!" 2016: The Modern Portrait



**Summer Group show  
with 25 artists**

*\*Complete list of artists can  
be found on the last page.*

July 7<sup>th</sup> - Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Opening Vernissage Thursday,  
July 7<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

**New York, NY** ... The annual summer group show **FRESH!** returns to JanKossen Contemporary, featuring works by 25 artists who reveal their interpretation on contemporary portraiture. Artists were invited to demonstrate their artistic approach and interpretation of how the portrait offers an intimate view of the depicted subject; the exploration of their character, sentiment, and identity.

A diverse group of international emerging and established artists were selected, offering the viewers a range of distinct methods, media, materials and techniques.

Taking photos of their subjects in full-body pose, artists **Robyn Day**, **Justin Levesque**, **Amber Turlentes** and **Clay Jordan** reveal their distinct styles to depict personal, social, institutional or political representation when it comes to individual identity. While these artists' subjects were taken from a distance, we are given a more intimate perspective by artists **Aniko Safran**, **Stratton McCrady** and **Melonie Mulkey**. Here, images of almost uncomfortable

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proximity are displayed; an exact moment of intimacy is seized through the manipulation of the subject's surrounding.

While photography gives us a real depiction of the subject, artists **Byungkwan Kim, Jack Rosenberg** and **Roman Traexler** chose paintings to re-interpret, re-invent and distort what the viewers are seeing. Demonstrating destructive qualities while still maintaining parts of the portrait recognizable, these artists aim to introduce a sense of strangeness into a familiar subject. This execution ultimately leads to the discovery of something new or unusual within the habitual.

Collage and mixed-media has a strong presence in this show. The artists **Evan Schwartz, Zachary Williams, Shawn Shepherd, Axelle Kieffer, Nina Sumarac, Christopher Owen Nelson** and **Maxwell Emcays** use complex and intricate techniques to convey deep conceptual meaning. Using works on paper or canvas, these artists explore personal, institutional, and social struggles in a particular community or setting, as well as scrutinize the relationship between the human form within their environment.

Using unconventional processes or materials, the portraits by artists **Jasmin Edelbrunner, Colleen Fitzgerald** and **Sarupa Sidaarth** show a fragmented subject to illustrate the fluidity of self, while also hinting at the polarity between destruction and creation. A common tie between the works among this group of artists is not only the aesthetic presentation, but the atypical elements of the work.

When speaking of the portrait, the classical, realistic styles automatically come to mind. Using the traditional as a base, artists **Neven Zoricic, Herwig Maria Stark, Mark Liam Smith, Marc Dessauvage** and **Christopher Parrott** have purposefully integrated a subtle yet impactful twist in their work to separate it from the ordinary realm. Incorporating color, a particular style, a narrative fiction or adopting a particular medium, these artists have successfully demonstrated their individual vision.

"FRESH!" runs from July 7<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with a closing finissage on Thursday August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Complete List of Artists

**Robyn Day** | Chicago, IL **Marc Dessauvage** | New York, NY **Jasmin Edelbrenner** | Vienna, Austria **Maxwell Emcays** | Chicago, IL **Colleen Fitzgerald** | Memphis, TN **Clay Jordan** | Milledgeville, GA **Axelle Kieffer** | Savannah, GA **Byungkwan Kim** | Seoul, Korea **Justin Levesque** | Portland, ME **Stratton McCrady** | Saco, ME **Melonie Mulkey** | Champaign, IL **Christopher Owen Nelson** | Santa Fe, NM **Christopher Parrott** | Huntington, NY **Jack Rosenberg** | New York, NY **Aniko Safran** | Harrisonburg, VA **Evan Schwartz** | Brooklyn, NY **Shawn Shepherd** | Victoria, Canada **Sarupa Sidaarth** | Belvedere Tiburon, CA **Mark Liam Smith** | Toronto, Canada **Herwig Maria Stark** | Vienna, Austria **Nina Sumarac** | Limassol, Cyprus **Amber Tourlentes** | Somerville, MA **Roman Traexler** | Vienna, Austria **Zachary Williams** | Chicago, IL **Neven Zoricic** | Milan, Italy

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