

MANA

CONTEMPORARY

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MANA CONTEMPORARY INTRODUCES MANA EXPOSITION

An independent contemporary art market in Jersey City, NJ opening May 10, 2014

Eugene Lemay, President of Mana Contemporary, announces the debut this spring of Mana Exposition, a new addition to the Jersey City art complex to be held in Mana Glass Gallery, one of the largest galleries in the United States. Designed by architect Richard Meier, the column-free exhibition space spans 50,000 square feet. The inaugural exposition will run from May 10 to August 1 and will feature works with a market value of over \$10 million, signaling a new commercial direction at Mana Contemporary. Mana Exposition will also embody Mana Contemporary's goal of fostering a sense of community in the art industry, and will encourage artists to realize monumental works and sell directly to collectors.

Lemay says "We view Mana Exposition as an opportunity for artists to present their work in a more relaxed and aesthetic environment, without white boxes or cubicles. Each Mana Exposition will have a prominent curator or curatorial team working directly with artists."

The first Mana Exposition is curated by artist Ray Smith, who titled the show *All The Best Artists Are My Friends, Part 1*. Mana approached Smith knowing he would assemble a show that evokes the kinship in the community of artists at Mana Contemporary. Among the three-dozen artists included in the inaugural exposition are Rita Ackermann, the Bruce High Quality Foundation, Phong Bui, Francesco Clemente, Alex Katz, Shelter Serra, Max Snow, Swoon, Meyer Vaisman, Angel Vergara, and Andy Warhol. Many of the participating artists have created work especially for this show.

Richard Meier says the walls he designed for the Glass Gallery "make the space divided but also fluid ... as you move around the space, you see the different relationships between the art shown here. ... It's a phenomenal exhibition space. I've never seen anything like it."

Lemay adds "Galleries are facing a daunting number of fairs each year, often in far-flung locations. We believe that Mana Exposition projects will be welcomed by the community of galleries, an exciting series of shows that does not tax gallery resources."

The Mana Exposition at Mana Contemporary will open to the public on Saturday, May 10 from 1 to 7 p.m. and be open daily Monday-Friday from May 12 through August 1. On May 10, hourly buses from Manhattan will run from Milk Gallery at 450 West 15th Street. For public opening hours and shuttle bus information, contact www.manaexposition.com.

About Mana Contemporary:

Opened in May 2011 in Jersey City, Mana Contemporary is one of the largest and most innovative contemporary art organizations in the United States. Through integrated design, Mana provides services, spaces, and programming for artists, collectors, curators, performers, students, and the greater community. Mana Contemporary's Jersey City, NJ campus encompasses over 2 million square feet, including a multi-functional 1920s industrial brick building that spans 500,000 square feet and includes light-filled studios and pristine galleries.

Mana Contemporary utilizes a hive concept to serve as a catalyst for the integration and exchange of ideas between artists and leaders in the art world. Artists of diverse disciplines— painting, sculpture, photography, dance, film, sound, and performance—work alongside each other in a progressive campus environment, which fosters experimentation, collaboration, and mutual inspiration. Offering collection management, climate-controlled storage, art handling, appraisals, framing, crating and transportation, it is a convenient hub for a wide range of professional needs. For artists and performers it offers studios, rehearsal and exhibition space, as well as a printmaking shop and a foundry. Home to foundation collections, gallery and exhibition spaces, Mana hosts ongoing public programming and is open to the public daily. In addition to its Jersey City headquarters, Mana operates facilities in Chicago and Miami. For further information, visit www.manacontemporary.com.

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