

Mana Contemporary Presents:

American Painter John Newsom's Recent Work the Focus of Major New Exhibition

Fourteen supersize paintings, including one made specially for the occasion,
featured in New York-based artist's largest exhibition to date

January 11 – April 24, 2015

Public Reception: 1 PM to 7 PM on January 11, 2015



Red Afternoon, 2011–2013. Oil on canvas. Courtesy: Irma and Matt Vaccaro Collection.

JERSEY CITY, NJ November 14 – Mana Contemporary is pleased to present *ROGUE ARENA*, an exhibition of American artist John Newsom's most recent paintings. Showcased in Mana's 5,000 square-foot Gallery 888, the fourteen mammoth works on view highlight Newsom's penchant for big, beautiful canvases that layer detailed renditions of flora and fauna over a dizzying range of painting styles and geometric patterns.

The paintings were selected from the holdings of private and public collections around the northeast coast, and comprise the largest exhibition ever mounted for the New York-based painter. Each artwork was completed within the last decade, including *Rogue*

Arena (2014), a nine-foot tall painting Newsom created specifically for the exhibition. The never-before-seen piece will be stationed at Mana's entrance, greeting guests upon their arrival.

ROGUE ARENA, Newsom's first solo show at Mana and organized by Mana's curatorial team, emphasizes the artist's ongoing fascination with the natural world. His characteristically large, elaborate oil collages of birds, insects, mammals, and skulls are created using a range of formal painting techniques, reflecting Newsom's appreciation for an array of movements throughout art history. References to Charles Darwin, James Rosenquist, and John James Audubon, the artist who created the legendary *Birds of America* picture series,

are readily apparent in Newsom's work, resulting in rich, ornamental spectacles of nature and color.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue, with a text written by The Nation's art critic Barry Schwabsky.

About John Newsom

John Newsom (b. 1970, Kansas) is an American painter, writer, and curator. He is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and holds an MFA from New York University. Working primarily in oil on large canvases, Newsom incorporates a range of painting styles into his realistic representations of animals and plants. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Yale University Art Gallery, the Hammer Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Library of Congress, among others. Newsom is represented by MARC STRAUSS in New York and Patrick Painter Inc. in Los Angeles.

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About Mana Contemporary

Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination with locations in Jersey City and Chicago. Studios, exhibition spaces, art services, and programming provide an unparalleled environment for creating and experiencing art. By exposing and exploring the artistic process, Mana Contemporary offers an exciting way to discover and learn about art while artists are enabled to experiment and collaborate across all disciplines, forms, and media. Mana Contemporary is home to the Richard Meier Model Museum, Gary Lichtenstein Editions, the Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, the Middle East Center for the Arts, Shen Wei Dance Arts, the Keating Foundry, and more. For more information about Mana Contemporary, please visit www.manacontemporary.com.

Press Contact:

Selena Ricks—Public Relations Director
sricks@manacontemporary.com
T. 201.484.1495 ext. 672

888 Newark Ave
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Manacontemporary.com