

Prints from American photographer David Levinthal's Landmark WWII Series to be Exhibited at Mana Contemporary

*Nine limited-edition photographs from Levinthal's seminal 1977 project
showcase his unique style of object-driven narrative photography*

January 11–April 17, 2015

Public reception: January 11, 2015, 1PM–7PM

Jersey City, NJ, December 12, 2014—Mana Contemporary is pleased to present *Hitler Moves East*, an exhibition of images from American photographer David Levinthal's photo-book of the same name. Using toy soldiers and meticulously assembled environments, Levinthal recreated Hitler's sixth army's 1941-3 trek and ultimate surrender to forces in the former Soviet Union. Nine of the resulting sepia-toned photographs, originally taken in 1975 and reprinted in 2012, will be displayed in Mana's second floor gallery, providing an intimate glimpse into the photographer's early exploration of object-driven narrative photography.

Levinthal's subjects—tiny, conventional figurines—allow him to tackle controversial subject matter such as war, racism, sex, pop culture, and political strife. His characteristically zoomed-in, depth-constricted photographs imbue the toys with an uncanny sense of life, blurring the boundaries between fantasy and reality. As such, the grainy, colorless shots from the *Hitler*

Moves East series provide a fictional yet realistic representation of battle while simultaneously questioning both truth and credibility.

The works in the Mana exhibition, selected by Levinthal himself, represent a significant moment in the artist's career. Published in 1977 as a book with text written by his Yale University classmate Garry Trudeau, the complete *Hitler Moves East* project introduced Levinthal's distinct, emotive style and verified its powerful potential. Its success prompted Levinthal to further develop his toy-centric photographic vision; he devoted himself entirely to photography full-time in 1983 and has since exhibited internationally. By focusing on small-scale, hobby-shop models and blatantly constructed environments, Levinthal invites viewers to locate and define reality for themselves.

About David Levinthal

American artist David Levinthal (b. 1949, San Francisco) currently lives and works in New York. He holds a BA in studio art from Stanford University, an MFA in photography

from Yale University, and an MS in Management Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Using toys and handmade sets, Levinthal creates life-like scenes that he photographs close-up, with a shallow depth of field. His voyeuristic style, together with his unique subjects, complicates the boundaries between fantasy and reality and investigates how cultural values are conveyed through objects of play. Levinthal's work is included in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, Centre Pompidou, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, International Center of Photography, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among others.

About Mana Contemporary

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination dedicated to celebrating the creative process. Headquartered in a former tobacco warehouse in Jersey City, Mana unites artists' studios, exhibition spaces, and ancillary services in a single location, facilitating conversation and collaboration among its burgeoning creative community. Together with its sister campuses in Chicago and Miami, Mana serves as a lively center for all members of the art world. Visitors receive unparalleled access to a range of art-making techniques and presentations first-hand. A transparent, comprehensive hub of creativity, Mana offers a profound, personal approach to contemporary art. Mana Contemporary is home to the Richard Meier Model Museum, Gary Lichtenstein Editions, Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Armitage Gone! Dance, Keating Foundry, The Florence Academy of Art, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and many others. For additional information, please visit manacontemporary.com.

Press Contact:

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

Mana Contemporary

888 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306
manacontemporary.com

Mana Miami

318 NW 23rd Street
Miami, FL 33127
mana-miami.com