

Yigal Ozeri: Revolution at Giverny— A Return of Women in Nature

Photorealist painter Yigal Ozeri presents a series of paintings, drawings, and sculptures inspired by Marie Antoinette and Monet's gardens at Giverny commissioned by The Richard J. Massey Foundation.

May 3 – August 13, 2015



Yigal Ozeri, *Revolution at Giverny*, 2014

JERSEY CITY, NJ, April 7, 2015—Mana Contemporary is pleased to present *Revolution at Giverny: A Return to Women in Nature*, a new series of paintings, drawings, and sculpture by Yigal Ozeri. Commissioned in 2013 by The Richard J. Massey Foundation, the works realize an anachronistic, fleeting illusion of the last Queen of France, Marie Antoinette, as she savors the lush sanctuary of Monet's gardens before being banished from Eden.

Throughout the works, exhibited in Mana's 5,000-square-foot Gallery 888, Ozeri continues his celebrated high-definition Photorealist style, depicting a life-like female protagonist in a sublime landscape. Executed from photographs, Ozeri uses meticulous brushwork to create two panoramic 12-foot-long

paintings, as well as a series of loose, freehand monochromatic drawings on canvas, a video installation, and a sculpture consisting of wood, resin, and fabric.

The large-scale paintings demand further inspection beyond their spellbinding immediate impact. Employing hyperrealist techniques, multiple viewpoints, and spatial shift to create an eerie, surreal juxtaposition, Ozeri provides an emotional distancing between the doomed heroine, the magnificent setting aligned with the famed Impressionist, and the viewer. Seemingly floating atop the lily ponds, surrounded by willow trees and wisteria, the Queen, modeled by artist Tarra Bandet in a period costume, appears blissfully unaware of the fate that awaits her. Bandet was a key collaborator in this commission

project, acting as muse and model, as well as applying her own understanding of art history. Consequently, both the artist and the patrons have invited the viewer to consider these French icons within the context of freedom in sanctuary and revolution.

Yigal Ozeri was born in Israel and has lived and worked in New York for the past 20 years. He has shown extensively around the world and his work is in a number of prominent permanent collections including the Albertina Museum in Vienna, Austria; The Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; the Haifa Museum of Art, Israel; the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas; the Tel Aviv Museum of Art; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Richard Massey Foundation, New York; and Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, New York, among many 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.