

Mana Contemporary Presents:

John Chamberlain: *Photographs*

September 25, 2016—April 1, 2018

Public reception: September 25, 2016, from 1PM—6PM



John Chamberlain, *Untitled*, 1989-2002, from the *Widelux* series. Edition 9/9.

JERSEY CITY, NJ, September 16, 2016—
Mana Contemporary and Ayn Foundation present a kinetic series of photographs taken with a swing-lens Widelux camera from the legendary artist, curated by Tad Wiley. The exhibition is in Mana's second floor gallery.

This exhibition showcases 70 works, ranging between 1989 and 2002. Known primarily for his sculptures, Chamberlain actively experimented in all mediums, including painting, film, and photography. He once referred to these works as “self-portraits of the nervous system,” using the camera more as an extension of his body than of his mind’s eye. “In these scenes,” explains Wiley, “He is an active participant, instead of merely a voyeur.”

Chamberlain’s technique is intuitive. He would get comfortable, and hold up the camera close to his body and move in order to absorb as much as possible in one image, without looking through the lens. “This method of capturing a scene is reminiscent of the automatic drawing of the Surrealists, and later of Willem de Kooning’s ‘blind’ drawings,” explains Wiley. “The alternating hard and soft focus displayed in most of the photographs also mirrors the distorted visual play of the reflective surfaces that abound in many of the artist’s painted steel and chrome plated works.” Many of these are self-portraits, at times displaying more than one facial image captured by his movements and the lens at once.

About Ayn Foundation

Ayn Foundation was founded in 1993 and is dedicated to presenting comprehensive, large-scale installations by major international artists to the public. Other current projects include Andy Warhol's *The Last Supper* and Maria Zeres' *September Eleven*, located in Marfa, Texas. Past projects include the establishment of the Arnulf Rainer Museum in Chelsea, New York, from 1993-1995; as well as projects by Joa Baldinger, John Chamberlin, and Dan Flavin.

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. Mana Contemporary is home to the Richard Meier Model Museum, Ayn Foundation, the International Center of Photography, The Florence Academy of Art, Gary Lichtenstein Editions, Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Armitage Gone! Dance, Keating Foundry, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Mana Urban Arts Project, and many others. For additional information, please visit manacontemporary.com.