



## Mana Contemporary Presents: John Chamberlain: *Photographs*



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

September 25, 2016—April 1, 2018  
Public reception: September 25, 2016, from 1—6PM

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 Zerres’ *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 Chamberlain, and Dan Flavin.

### ABOUT MANA CONTEMPORARY

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is dedicated to providing a platform for contemporary art and artists through exhibitions, studio programs, and public programs. Mana’s community network began in New Jersey and has since expanded to include Mana Chicago (2013) and Mana Miami (2015). Mana Contemporary continues to create new partnership opportunities that explore the intersection of contemporary art, design, new technologies, and music. For more information, visit [manacontemporary.com](http://manacontemporary.com).

### MEDIA CONTACT

Shai Baitel  
[sbaitel@manacontemporary.com](mailto:sbaitel@manacontemporary.com)

Mana Contemporary  
888 Newark Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

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