



JENKINS JOHNSON GALLERY

464 Sutter Street • San Francisco • CA 94108

415.677.0770 • www.jenkinsjohnsongallery.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco

Spring Selections | artMRKT

May 2 – June 22 | May 16 – 19



Julian Opie, *Bibi Running*, 2012, acrylic lenticular, 35.125 x 20.75 inches, edition of 50



Julian Opie, *Paul Running*, 2012, lenticular acrylic, 32.625 x 20 inches, edition of 50



Gordon Parks, *At Segregated Drinking Fountain, Mobile, Alabama, 1956*, pigment print, 14 x 14 inches, Edition of 25
© The Gordon Parks Foundation

Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, is pleased to present ***Spring Selections***, a group exhibition of gallery artists including paintings, photographs, lenticulars, sculptures, works on paper, and installations. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, May 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Participating artists include Nicolas Africano, Lynn Aldrich, Ben Aronson, Melissa Cooke, Michael Craig-Martin, Lalla Essaydi, Tim Etchells, Scott Fraser, Courtney Johnson, Julian Opie, Gordon Parks, Vanessa Prager, Scott Prior, Skip Steinworth, and Timotheus Tomicek. The exhibition will run through June 22nd, 2013. Concurrently, the gallery will be participating in **artMRKT San Francisco** which will be held at the Festival Pavilion – Fort Mason Center, May 16 – 19, 2013. Our booth at artMRKT will include highlights from *Spring Selections*, including works by Nicolas Africano, Lynn Aldrich, Ben Aronson, Tim Etchells, Scott Fraser, Julian Opie, and Gordon Parks.



Ben Aronson, *Late Day, California Street*, 2012
oil on panel, 12 x 12 inches

There will be a Panel Discussion on Gordon Parks with Julian Cox, Founding Curator of Photography and Chief Curator, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, George Phillip LeBourdais, Photo-historian and Stanford Ph.D. Candidate in Art History and contributor to "Collected Works" by Gordon Parks, along with Karen Jenkins-Johnson, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, and others. The panel will be moderated by journalist Jonathan Curiel and honors the legacy and work of the late iconic artist and photojournalist Gordon Parks, who would have turned 100 on November 30, 2012. It will take place Sunday, May 19th at 1:00 PM at the Festival Pavilion – Fort Mason Center. Please visit <http://www.art-mrkt.com/sf> for further details.

Spring Selections brings together preeminent works that offer dynamic points-of-view and visual artistry. UK artists Michael Craig-Martin, Julian Opie, and Tim Etchells challenge visual standards through unique concepts and media. The exhibition will highlight groupings of drawings by graphite and pen artists Skip Steinworth, Melissa Cooke, and Vanessa Prager. Paintings, sculptures, and drawings by American artists Nicolas Africano, Lynn Aldrich, Ben Aronson, Scott Fraser, and Scott Prior will also be on display.

Lenticulars *Bibi Running* and *Paul Running* by **Julian Opie**, one of Great Britain's most renowned contemporary artists, proffer a radical approach to portraiture. His portraits, sculptures, and reliefs provide a reductive way of depicting the world in which he

balances historical styles of Western Art with the graphic traditions of caricature, illustration, and even cartoon to employ personality upon the subject with a minimal amount of information. All of his works feature acquaintances; in this instance, Paul is his son and Bibi is Paul's friend. His



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work can be found in many public collections worldwide, including: The Tate Gallery, London; The Arts Council of Great Britain; The National Museum of Art, Osaka; and The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Also based out of the UK, multi-disciplinary artist **Tim Etchells** creates text-based neon installations that create interplay between art and viewer. The application of short text is used as a means of implication, which leaves room for interpretation of the artist's search for new perspectives. His work has been exhibited at Tate Liverpool; Gotenburg International Biennale; CASM, Arts Santa Mònica, Barcelona; MACBA, Barcelona; Künstlerhaus Bremen; Netherlands Media Art Institute, Amsterdam; Sparwasser HQ, Berlin; ArtFutures, Bloomberg SPACE, London; The Centre for Book Arts, Canada; Exit Art, New York; and Manifesta 7, Rovereto, Italy.

The exhibition will include sculpture by Los Angeles artist **Lynn Aldrich**, who will have a 20 year survey of her work at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA opening on October 12, 2013, entitled "Lynn Aldrich: Un/Common Objects". Aldrich's interpretations of Ready-Made sculptures have been caricaturized as Home Depot Pop, but unlike other Ready-Made artists, she often embraces the physical purpose of the object, using hoses or pipes to represent water flow or sponges to imply ocean cleaning. Her inventive creations raise questions about the state of the environment and human consumption, often referencing concerns such as deforestation, plastic accumulation in the ocean, or coral reef degradation. Each piece contains some reference to nature, whether through implied water, light, astronomical bodies, or flora and fauna. Aldrich juxtaposes these societal topics with visually arresting constructions that exhibit varying relief and powerful color. Jenkins Johnson Gallery was pleased to exhibit her work at Volta NY – 13 edition and Aldrich received critical acclaim from BLOUIN ART INFO's "Armory Week's Hidden Gems" and was included as a highlight in BLOUIN ART INFO's "Inside Armory Week's SPRING/BREAK Art Show" as well as was featured on the blog "First Indigo".

Noted American painter **Ben Aronson** is also inspired by the environment around him as seen in his urban landscapes. His paintings of American cities evoke their urban spirit that transcends the work from pictorial to poetic. Celebrated for his remarkable application of paint, Aronson has a unique ability to capture intricate nuances of light and shadow. Aronson's work makes stylistic references to the Bay Area School and the New York action painters. Aronson's work is in major museums such as the de Young Museum; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Flint Institute of Art; The National Academy Museum; The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; The Butler Institute of American Art; and New Orleans Museum of Art. Recent museum exhibitions were held at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens as well as an exhibition at the Georgia Museum of Art running concurrently with *Spring Selections*.

Spring Selections will unveil a new cast glass bust by **Nicolas Africano** whose work reveals themes of stoicism, indulgence, costume, gender roles, and identity. The subject of his sculptures, his wife and muse, is sculpted in different states of dress and undress. Using the lost wax technique, which is primarily reserved for bronzes, and cold worked carving, Africano turns the dense and hard surface of glass into a soft and emotive medium. Africano has said of his work: "I resist the notion that my work is narrative; my interest resides in what cannot be told, in what seems unspeakable." Africano is in such prestigious public collections as The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Milwaukee Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and The Detroit Institute of Arts.

Gordon Parks, an iconic photographer, writer, composer, and filmmaker, was one of the most significant artists of the twentieth century. In the over twenty years Parks was at *Life* Magazine he chronicled the Civil Rights Movement, a Harlem gang leader, extreme poverty, and captured portraits of celebrities and Paris fashion icons. His portraits of Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, Eldridge Cleaver, and Ingrid Bergman, as well as his reinterpretation of American Gothic and pictorial rendition of Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* made him one of the most celebrated photographers of our time. Jenkins Johnson Gallery presents the work of Gordon Parks in collaboration with The Gordon Parks Foundation. A number of exhibitions have been organized in celebration of Parks' centennial throughout the United States and abroad in 2012 and 2013. Participating Institutions include the International Center for Photography, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Studio Museum of Harlem in New York, eight Macy's stores including New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, and, opening this month, at the Fondazione FORMA per la Fotografia in Milan, Italy.



Nicolas Africano, *Untitled (Bust with Grapes)*
2013, cast glass, 17.5 x 9 x 13 inches

For more information, please visit www.jenkinsjohnsongallery.com or contact Susie Novak at 415-677-0770 or susie@jenkinsjohnsongallery.com.