

GALERIE RODOLPHE JANSSEN

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Sean LANDERS

November 8th -December 21th 2012

OPENING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8 TH FROM 6 P.M.

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Galerie Rodolphe Janssen is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by New York-based artist Sean Landers (b. 1962, USA). This is the first exhibition of Landers's work at the gallery.

Throughout his twenty-six year career, Landers has used diverse styles and media as vehicles for revealing the process of artistic creation. He is known for using personal experience as public subject matter in order to present a portrait of the artist's own consciousness. Often considered to be self-portraiture, his oeuvre presents an up-close view into the artist, while commenting on the universality of human thought, creation and existence. This exhibition weaves together themes, imagery and techniques that have been integral to Landers's practice throughout his career.

Since the early 1990's, Landers has been using writing as a visual medium to draw the viewer in. Performative by nature, the writing in the early works gave voice to the artist's innermost thoughts, yet the audience could never be sure where fact and reality left off into fiction, as both were intertwined. In the new series presented here, Landers again utilizes writing not only as a formal aspect of painting, but also as a means to convey deep personal meaning. Abandoning his earlier technique of an immediate, stream-of-consciousness narrative in real time, the writing here is pre-determined, restrained and more elegantly philosophical. The physical form of the texts themselves is now more controlled and they are painted on the spines of books on bookshelves. With each painting, Landers reveals a deeply personal tenet to which he has remained true throughout his artistic practice. Regardless of their singular vision, the paintings collectively describe Sean Landers, the artist, and also each viewer in their own quest to make a meaningful existence during their short time on this planet. Each work is an ode to mortality and underscores the intent and the significance of the art-making individual, and humanity as a whole, as time moves on.

In *Radio and Venerable Seafarer*, Landers lays out his desire for a meaningful existence, for people to be moved by his work long into the future so that it may live on forever, much like a radio wave's endless journey across the universe. This desire for eternal life through art left behind is a byproduct of all artistic practices, and part of the universal psyche of humanity. In *Pencils*, Landers shares a secret memory of his first creative inclination to write, clearly describing the passion he felt at his new discovery, a passion that has not diminished to this day. In *Lord of the Seas* Landers uses the metaphor of a blue water sailor to describe the purest form of artistic thought; elusive and hard to hold, but once in hand, leading on to another—a never-ending process.

These new paintings are self-referential in more ways than just concerning the text. Some paintings highlight a particular image specifically borrowed from Landers's studio, and essential to his practice, such as his radio or pencil holder. Some paintings, specifically *Monos*, *Venerable Seafarer* and *Lord of the Seas*, depict an earlier body of work, and can be seen as a self-portrait embodying a self-portrait. Yet all of these paintings bring together two opposing forces in Landers's work—the desire for revealing himself and the need for preserving his privacy. As a backlash to his initial revelatory writing in the early 1990's, in 1994 Landers began to investigate the use color as a means of preserving his privacy. He made a number of colorful stripe paintings, the lines of color meant to embody the unwritten, and therefore unread, thoughts. In these new works, the colors of the books purposefully mimic the colors of the stripes in those earlier paintings, while the books themselves reference the stripes.

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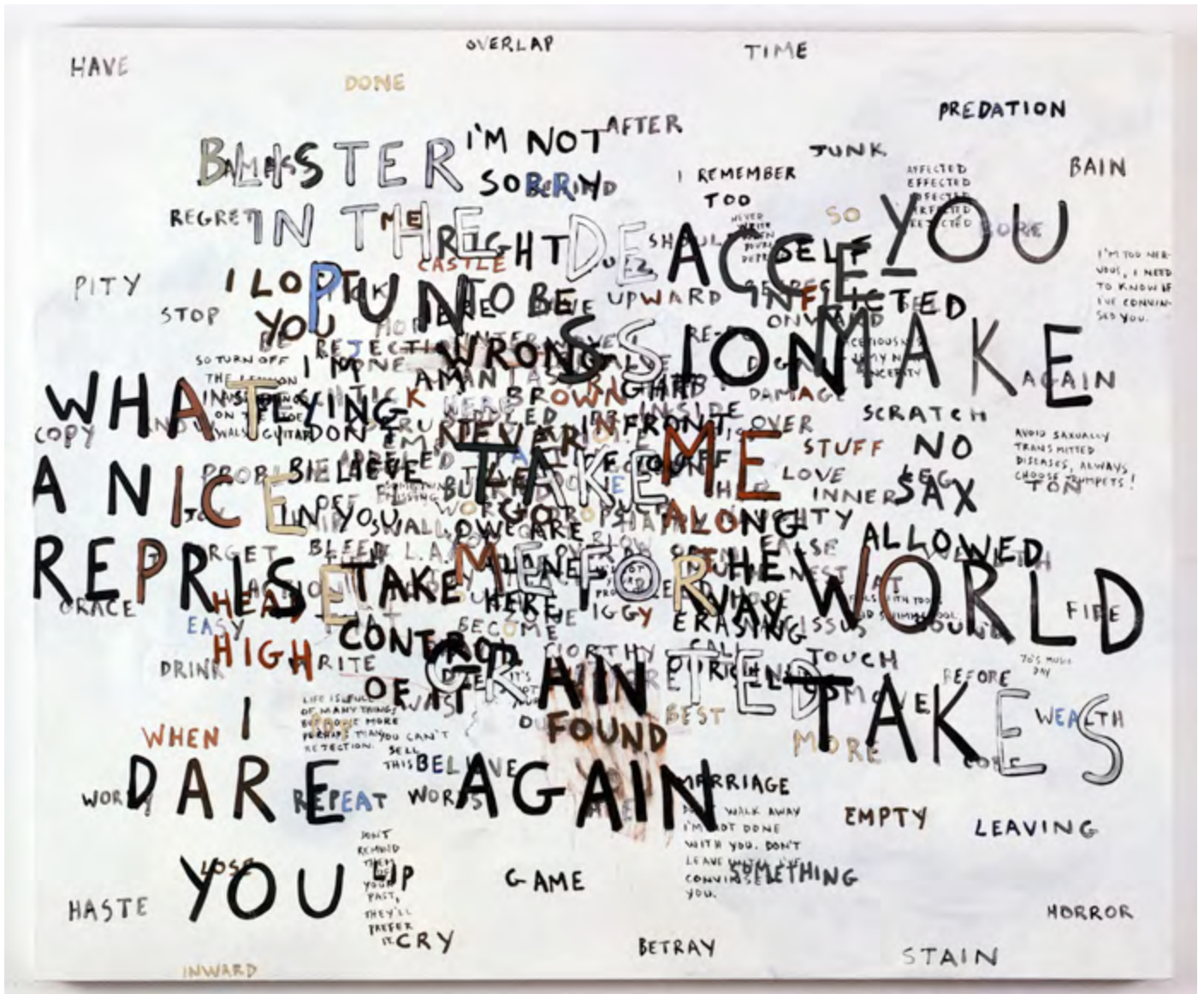
Landers's work is represented in numerous major museum and public collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, Denver Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Walker Art Center, Seattle Art Museum, Nasher Museum of Art, Henry Art Gallery, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Tate Modern.

Survey exhibitions of Landers's work have been presented at the Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis (2010) and Kunsthalle Zurich (2004). His work has been seen in exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art/PS1; Whitney Museum of American Art; Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; Serpentine Gallery, London; Saatchi Gallery, London; Kunsthalle Vienna; Kunstverein in Hamburg; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux and the Venice Biennale, the Athens Biennale and the Berlin Biennial.

His early work from 1990 – 1995 is the focus of a recently released monograph published by JRP|Ringier, and a comprehensive catalogue of his work was published in conjunction with his solo exhibition at Zurich Kunsthalle.



Radio Lamay, 2012
Oil on linen
152.4 x 226.1 cm
60 x 89 1/8 in
(SLan009)



Blister in the Pun, 2009
Oil on linen
115.6 x 137.2 cm
45 1/2 x 54 1/8 in
(SLan006)

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SEAN LANDERS BIOGRAPHY

Born 1962, Palmer, MA
Lives and works in New York, NY

EDUCATION

1986 MFA, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT
1984 BFA, Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012

Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium
Sorry We're Closed, Brussels, Belgium, Longmore
greengrassi, London, UK

2011

Friedrich Petzel Gallery, New York, NY, *Sean Landers: Around the World Alone*
Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, *Sean Landers: A Midnight Modern Conversation*

2010

Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, *Sean Landers: 1991–1994, Improbable History*

2009

Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, East Hampton, NY, *Sean Landers: Art, Life and God*
greengrassi, London, UK
Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, *Sean Landers: Sadness Racket*

2008

Friedrich Petzel Gallery, New York, NY, *Sean Landers: Set of Twelve*
Galerie Giti Nourbakhsh, Berlin, Germany, *Sean Landers: Chagrins of the New Episteme*

2007

China Art Objects, Los Angeles, CA
Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, NY

2004

Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

2002

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Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, *Sean Landers: Psycomatica Tokyo*
Rebecca Camhi Gallery, Athens, Greece, *Sean Landers: Psychomachia*

1999

Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin, Germany, *Sean Landers: La Periode Vache*
Galeria Presença, Porto, Portugal

1998

Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Crown Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

1997

Studio Guenzani, Milan, Italy

1996

Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin, Germany
Rebecca Camhi Gallery, Athens, Greece
Stuart Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA

1994

Bruno Brunnet Fine Arts, Berlin, Germany
Jay Jopling/White Cube, London, UK, *Sean Landers: New Work*
Stuart Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA

1993

Galerie Esther Schipper, Cologne, Germany
Galerie Jennifer Flay, Paris, France

1992

Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, NY

1991

Galerie Marc Jancou, Zürich, Switzerland

1989

Queens Museum, Queens, NY, Petra

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012

La Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy, *Freedom not Genius: Works from Damien Hirst's Murderme Collection*

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Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland, *Looking Back for the Future*

2011

Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL, *Syntax: Text and Symbolism for a New Generation: Works from the Hadley Martin Fisher Collection*

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, *Midnight Party*

2009

Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany, *The Making of Art*

Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA, *This Is Killing Me*

Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, *Jean-Luc Blanc: Opera Rock*

Vanmoerkerke Collection, Oostende, Belgium, *You Will Never Wake up from This Beautiful Dream*

2008

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, *Ithaca Collects*

Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland, *Blasted Allegories, Werke aus der Sammlung Ringier/ Works from the Ringier Collection*

2007

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Houston, TX, *Perspectives 159: Superconscious: Automatism Now*

Hessel Museum of Art, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, *Exhibitionism: An Exhibition of Exhibitions of Works from the Marieluise Hessel Collection*

The City of Athens Technopolis, Athens, Greece, *1st Athens Biennial 2007: Destroy Athens*

Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC, *New at the Nasher*

Landesgalerie Linz, Linz, Austria, *Scheitern*

Galleri Faurschou, Copenhagen, Denmark, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Late Picasso and Contemporary Painters*

2006

Serpentine Gallery, London, UK, *In the Darkest Hour There May Be Light: Works from Damien Hirst's Murderme Collection*

MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY, *Defamation of Character*

Berlin, Germany, *4th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art: Of Mice and Men*, Gagolian Gallery, Berlin venue

2005

Musée Cantonal de Beaux-Arts de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, *Private View, 1980–2000. Collection Pierre Huber*

Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, *Playtime*

2004

CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA. *Likeness: Portraits of Artists by Other Artists*

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2003

MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA, *Influence, Anxiety and Gratitude*

2002

Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, *Face/Off: A Portrait of the Artist*
CCAC Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA, *To Whom It May Concern*

2001

Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland, *Au rendez-vous des amis*
Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria, *Tele[visions]: Kunst Sieht Fern*

2000

Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, *Selections from the Permanent Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art*

1999

Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK, *Examining Pictures: Exhibiting Paintings*. Travels to: Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; University of California Los Angeles, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Museo de Arte Alvar y Carmen T. Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico, Colección Jumex

1997

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, *Heart, Mind, Body, Soul: American Art in the 1990s*, *Selections from the Permanent Collection*

1996

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, *So You Want to Be a Rock and Roll Star: Artists "Sing" on Screen*
Neues Museum Weimar, Klassik Stiftung Weimar, Weimar, Germany, *Nach Weimar*
Kunstverein in Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, *Wunderbar*. Travels to: Kunstraum Niederösterreichische Wien
Saatchi Gallery, London, UK, *Young Americans: New American Art in the Saatchi Collection*

1995

MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA, *Next of Kin: Looking at the Great Apes*
Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, Copenhagen, Denmark, *I Confess*
Casino Knokke, Knokke, Belgium, *International Festival of Films on Art*

1994

Grazer Kunstverein im Stadtmuseum Graz, Graz, Austria, *Esprit d'amusement*
Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, *Das Jahrhundert des Multiple Von Duchamp bis zur Gegenwart*
Sprengel Museum Hannover, Hannover, Germany, *Die Orte der Kunst*

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De Beyerd Centrum voor Beeldende Kunst, Breda, the Netherlands, *"Can You Always Believe Your Eyes? Recent American Drawings"*

Neue Galerie Graz, Graz, Austria, *Don't Postpone Joy or Collecting Can Be Fun!*

Kunstverein in Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, *Cocktail I*

Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland, *Backstage*

1993

Kunstverein in Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, *Backstage*

Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria, *Die Sprache der Kunst*. Travels to: Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany

La Biennale di Venezia, Arsenale, Venice, Italy, XLV Venice Biennale: Aperto '93

1992

Magasin-Centre National d'Art Contemporain de Grenoble, Grenoble, France, *I, Myself and Others*

Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen, Denmark, *Paradise Europe*

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Sammlung Landesbank Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY

Denver Art Museum, CO

Des Moines Art Center, OH

Fundación/Colección Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico

Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA

Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, NC

Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany

Sammlung Hoffmann, Berlin, Germany

Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA

Tate Modern, London, Great Britain

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY