

For immediate release

## MARCEL DZAMA

### Puppets, Pawns, and Prophets

6 April – 11 May 2013

Private view: Friday 5 April, 6 to 8 PM



*Shall We Venture Outside*, 2013. Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches (43.2 x 35.6 cm)

David Zwirner is pleased to present an exhibition of recent and new work by Marcel Dzama, on view at the gallery's 24 Grafton Street space in London. *Puppets, Pawns, and Prophets* features three videos inspired by the game of chess, as well as puppets and masks based on the characters, drawings, collages, dioramas, and sculptural works.

Dzama has become known for his prolific drawings, which are characterized by their distinctive palette of muted browns, grays, greens, and reds. In recent years, the artist has expanded his practice to encompass three-dimensional work and film and has developed an immediately recognizable language that draws from a diverse range of references and artistic influences.

*Death Disco Dance* is a four-minute video loop featuring characters based on chess pieces. It was filmed in Guadalajara, Mexico, in conjunction with Dzama's *A Game of Chess* (which debuted at David Zwirner, New York, in 2011). In lieu of the latter's

narrative of fatal interchanges and power reversals, Dzama shows the ballet-dancing actors in a synchronized, but almost entirely improvised, dance, that was planned and choreographed on the spot. The artist himself created the disco-like soundtrack using a small drum machine. The loop will be displayed on several monitors in the gallery's street-facing window.

*Sister Squares*, which premieres in the exhibition, takes its title after artist and chess player Marcel Duchamp's handbook *Opposition and Sister Squares Are Reconciled*, published in 1932 with chess champion Vitaly Halberstadt in reference to theoretical strategies involving pawn and king endgames. Evocative of the quadrangles on a chessboard, Dzama has divided footage from *A Game of Chess* across four "screens," which simultaneously reveal the narrative. In the third video on view, *The Infidels*, the symbolic parallels between chess and war are made apparent as uniformed characters confront each other in a violent, imaginative battle.

(continue to next page)

Mask sculptures depicting some of the main protagonists in the films were created from ceramic and tin and bear the influence of local crafts in Mexico, where recycled cans are often used to make toys. The reconstituted source materials can be partially deciphered in the works, where colorful logos and various texts combine to create the shiny surfaces of the masks.

Amongst the drawings included in the show is the large-scale, four-part *Myth, Manifestos, and Monsters*, in which characters from the films line up alongside figures from the artist's earlier repertoire. As if posing for a group portrait, their various stages of disguise heighten the sense of a hidden plot. Other drawings, like two large-scale works executed on piano scroll, depict the characters in poses which mirror their movements and dancing in the films, while a series of new collages feature this imagery in unexpected contexts. Five small paintings depicting a lone female terrorist seated on a bed emphasize the underlying tension between reality and fiction which characterizes the works throughout the show.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue published by David Zwirner and Hatje Cantz, with an essay by Deborah Solomon. In Fall 2013, a comprehensive monograph of Dzama's work, produced and designed in collaboration with the artist, will be published by Abrams and will feature contributions by Bradley Bailey, Dave Eggers, Spike Jonze, and Raymond Pettibon.

**Marcel Dzama** was born in 1974 in Winnipeg, Canada. Since 1998, his work has been represented by David Zwirner, where he has had six solo exhibitions with the gallery in New York. *Puppets, Pawns, and Prophets* marks his first solo show at David Zwirner, London.

Dzama has exhibited widely in the United States and internationally. In 2010, a major survey of the artist's work was presented at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. Other recent solo exhibitions include those organized by the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain; Museo de Arte de Zapopan (MAZ), Zapopan, Mexico; World Chess Hall of Fame and Museum, St. Louis, Missouri (all 2012); Gemeentemuseum, The Hague; Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany (both 2011); Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2008); Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, England (2006); and Le Magasin - Centre National d'Art Contemporain de Grenoble, France (2005).

Work by the artist is held in museum collections worldwide, including the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Dallas Museum of Art; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Gallery, London; and the Vancouver Art Gallery. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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**Marcel Dzama**  
***Puppets, Pawns, and Prophets***  
**April 6 - May 11, 2013**

**ENTRANCE:**



Marcel Dzama  
*The Portable Death Disco Dance*, 2013  
Collage on paper  
12 x 9 inches  
30.5 x 22.9 cm  
Framed: 16 1/4 x 13 3/8 inches  
41.3 x 33.8 cm  
DZAMA3438

**GROUND FLOOR**

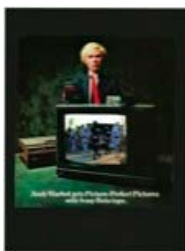
**Clockwise, left to right:**



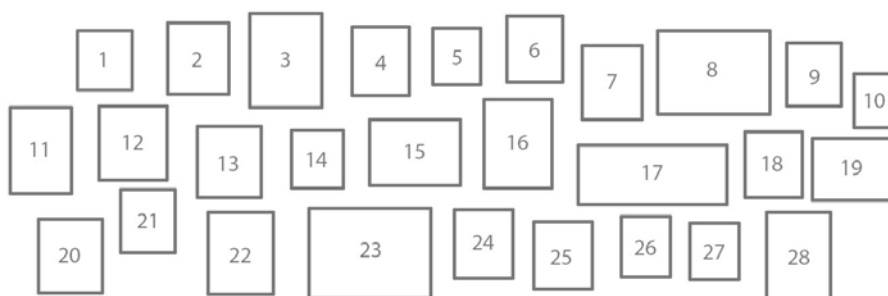
Marcel Dzama  
*The Strategy of a Pure Symbolic Order*, 2011  
Collage, pencil, ink, and watercolor on paper  
12 parts  
Framed: 26 3/8 x 56 3/4 inches  
67 x 144.1 cm  
Each: 10 3/4 x 8 1/4 inches  
27.3 x 21 cm  
DZAMA3069



Marcel Dzama  
*Death Disco Dance*, 2011  
Video on monitors, 4 min, (loop), color, sound  
accompanied by *Wooden Box (Death Disco Dance)*  
Dimensions variable with installation  
Edition 4 of 4 + 2 APs, EP2  
DZAMA3121.4



Marcel Dzama  
*Andy's Death Disco*, 2012  
Collage on paper  
11 3/4 x 8 3/4 inches  
29.8 x 22.2 cm  
Framed: 15 7/8 x 13 inches  
40.3 x 33 cm  
DZAMA3400



1

Marcel Dzama  
*The Photo Shoot or (Blood Has Fingers)*, 2013  
 Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
 14 x 11 inches  
 35.6 x 27.9 cm  
 Framed: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 inches  
 46.2 x 38.5 cm  
 DZAMA3421



2

Marcel Dzama  
*Shall we venture outside*, 2013  
 Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
 17 x 14 inches  
 43.2 x 35.6 cm  
 Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
 53.8 x 46 cm  
 DZAMA3430



3

Marcel Dzama  
*The Ned Kelly Armour Defense*, 2013  
 Ink, gouache, graphite, and collage on paper  
 4 pages  
 Overall: 23 1/8 x 16 1/4 inches  
 58.7 x 41.3 cm  
 Each: 11 1/2 x 8 1/8 inches  
 29.2 x 20.6 cm  
 Framed: 28 1/4 x 21 1/4 inches  
 72 x 54 cm  
 DZAMA3440



4

Marcel Dzama  
*A creature, that did bear the shape of man*, 2013  
 Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
 17 x 14 inches  
 43.2 x 35.6 cm  
 Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
 53.8 x 46 cm  
 DZAMA3424



5

Marcel Dzama  
*Kings have been his fellows, 2012*  
Ink and gouache on paper  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
Framed: 18 1/4 x 15 1/8 inches  
46.3 x 38.5 cm  
Signed, titled, and dated verso  
DZAMA3363



6

Marcel Dzama  
*The Death Disco Dance Steps, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
DZAMA3425



7

Marcel Dzama  
*The Chessmen, 2010*  
Graphite, watercolor, and ink on paper  
4 parts  
Framed: 24 x 19 1/8 inches  
61 x 48.6 cm  
Overall: 20 x 15 inches  
50.8 x 38.1 cm  
Each: 10 x 7 1/2 inches  
25.4 x 19.1 cm  
DZAMA3025



8

Marcel Dzama  
*Malala Will Have Her Revenge, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on piano paper  
2 scrolls  
Overall: 22 1/2 x 32 inches  
57.2 x 81.3 cm  
Each: 32 x 11 1/8 inches  
81.3 x 28.3 cm  
Framed: 27 1/2 x 37 1/4 inches  
70 x 94.5 cm  
DZAMA3443



9

Marcel Dzama  
*The Factious Feast, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
DZAMA3431



10

Marcel Dzama  
*Let me be cruel, not unnatural, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
Framed: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 inches  
46.2 x 38.5 cm  
DZAMA3419



11

Marcel Dzama  
*Detrás de cada cortina or Metete un palo en el culo, 2010*  
Graphite, watercolor, and ink on paper  
4 parts  
Framed: 23 3/8 x 18 1/2 inches  
59.4 x 47 cm  
Overall: 19 1/4 x 14 1/4 inches  
48.9 x 36.2 cm  
Each: 9 5/8 x 7 1/8 inches  
24.4 x 18.1 cm  
DZAMA3026



12

Marcel Dzama  
*The Renowned Union Jackoff, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
DZAMA3423



13

Marcel Dzama  
*Waiting to Be Anointed, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
DZAMA3432



14

Marcel Dzama  
*I have been a wicked creature, as you and all flesh and blood are, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
Framed: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 inches  
46.2 x 38.5 cm  
DZAMA3420



15

Marcel Dzama  
*If you can't bring good news, then don't bring me any, 2012*  
Ink, gouache, graphite, and collage on paper  
Framed: 20 3/4 x 28 1/4 inches  
52.7 x 71.8 cm  
Overall: 16 1/2 x 23 5/8 inches  
41.9 x 60 cm  
2 parts, each: 16 1/2 x 11 3/4 inches  
41.9 x 29.8 cm  
DZAMA3371



16

Marcel Dzama  
*The Tension around which History is Built, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
2 pages  
Overall: 23 1/8 x 16 3/8 inches  
58.7 x 41.6 cm  
Each: 11 5/8 x 16 3/8 inches  
29.5 x 41.6 cm  
Framed: 28 1/4 x 21 1/4 inches  
72 x 54 cm  
DZAMA3445



17

Marcel Dzama  
*Myth, Manifestos, and Monsters, 2013*  
Ink, graphite, and gouache on paper  
4-part work  
Overall: 14 x 44 inches  
35.6 x 111.8 cm  
Each page: 14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
Framed: 18 7/8 x 49 inches  
48 x 124.3 cm  
DZAMA3393



18

Marcel Dzama  
*As innocent as grace itself, 2012*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
DZAMA3429



19

Marcel Dzama  
*Opportunists mingling with combatants, 2012*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
2 parts  
Framed: 20 5/8 x 28 1/4 inches  
52.4 x 71.8 cm  
Overall paper: 16 1/2 x 23 5/8 inches  
41.9 x 60 cm  
Each paper: 16 1/2 x 11 3/4 inches  
41.9 x 29.8 cm  
DZAMA3373



20

Marcel Dzama  
*Picasso's Cock Fight, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
DZAMA3428



21

Marcel Dzama  
*Who will lead fourth, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 28 cm  
Framed: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 inches  
46.2 x 38.5 cm  
DZAMA3422



22

Marcel Dzama  
*The Queen's Profile or Aux mille tours Revisit , 2010*  
Graphite, watercolor, and ink on paper  
4 parts  
Framed: 23 3/8 x 18 1/2 inches  
59.4 x 47 cm  
Overall: 19 1/4 x 14 1/4 inches  
48.9 x 36.2 cm  
Each: 9 5/8 x 7 1/8 inches  
24.4 x 18.1 cm  
DZAMA3024



23

Marcel Dzama  
*The Queens Ghost Vanish'd From Our Sight, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on piano paper  
2 scrolls  
Overall: 22 1/2 x 32 3/8 inches  
57.2 x 82.2 cm  
Each: 32 x 11 1/8 inches  
81.3 x 28.3 cm  
Framed: 27 1/2 x 37 1/4 inches  
70 x 94.5 cm  
DZAMA3442



24

Marcel Dzama  
*I am Queen in title and in Style, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
Signed, titled, and dated verso; signed recto  
DZAMA3427



25

Marcel Dzama  
*A Play for Puppets and People, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
17 x 14 inches  
43.2 x 35.6 cm  
Framed: 21 1/4 x 18 1/8 inches  
53.8 x 46 cm  
DZAMA3426





26

Marcel Dzama  
*After we won the war, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
Framed: 18 1/4 x 15 1/4 inches  
46.2 x 38.5 cm  
DZAMA3418



27

Marcel Dzama  
*I fear I am attended by spies, 2012*  
Ink and gouache on paper  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
Framed: 18 1/4 x 15 1/8 inches  
46.3 x 38.5 cm  
DZAMA3364



28

Marcel Dzama  
*Was he not born of woman, 2013*  
Ink, gouache, graphite, and collage on paper  
4 pages  
Overall: 23 1/8 x 16 1/4 inches  
58.7 x 41.3 cm  
Each: 11 1/2 x 8 1/8 inches  
29.2 x 20.6 cm  
Framed: 28 1/4 x 21 1/4 inches  
72 x 54 cm  
DZAMA3441



Marcel Dzama  
*Sister Squares, 2012*  
Video on monitor, 13:55 min, black and white, sound  
Accompanied by *A King's Janus Times Two Puppet for All the Sister Squares*  
Dimensions vary with installation  
Edition 1 of 8, 1 APs  
DZAMA3369



Marcel Dzama  
*Chess Review Storyboard, 2012-2013*  
Collage: Collage on magazine Drawings: Ink, graphite, and colored pencil on paper  
Overall: 22 1/8 x 43 inches  
56.2 x 109.2 cm  
Collage: 10 3/4 x 8 3/8 inches  
27.3 x 21.3 cm  
Drawings: 11 1/2 x 8 3/8 inches  
29.2 x 21.3 cm  
DZAMA3458

## STAIRWAY



Marcel Dzama  
*Untitled (Winnipeg was won, Winnipeg was one), 2009*  
Graphite, ink, watercolor, and tracing paper on piano scroll  
3 sections of scroll  
Framed: 40 1/2 x 75 3/4 inches  
102.9 x 192.4 cm  
Part 1 (top/left): 11 1/4 x 71 inches  
28.6 x 180.3 cm  
Part 2 (middle): 11 1/4 x 69 1/8 inches  
28.6 x 175.6 cm  
Part 3 (bottom/right): 11 1/4 x 69 3/4 inches  
28.6 x 177.2 cm  
DZAMA2809

## FIRST FLOOR

Clockwise, left to right:



Marcel Dzama  
*The Infidels, 2009*  
35 mm film transferred to DVD, 2:01 min, black & white, sound video  
accompanied by *A Red Box for Marcel* (box of drawings and  
photographs, amount varies)  
Video dimensions vary with installation  
Box dimensions vary with installation  
Closed: 5 1/2 x 17 1/2 x 19 5/8 inches  
14 x 44.5 x 49.9 cm  
Open: 5 1/2 x 45 x 30 inches  
14 x 114.3 x 76.2 cm  
Edition 14 of 15, 1 of 1 APs  
DZAMA2766



Marcel Dzama  
*Perhaps they are gods, 2013*  
Graphite and collage on paper  
4 pages  
Overall: 23 1/4 x 16 1/4 inches  
59.1 x 41.3 cm  
Each: 11 1/2 x 8 1/8 inches  
29.2 x 20.6 cm  
Framed: 28 3/8 x 21 1/4 inches  
72 x 54 cm  
DZAMA3439



Marcel Dzama  
*If You Think This is Just a Game, You're Wrong, 2013*  
Diorama: wood, glass, cardboard, paper collage, watercolor, and ink  
21 1/2 x 25 1/8 x 12 inches  
54.6 x 63.8 x 30.5 cm  
DZAMA3453



Marcel Dzama  
*An age of discord and continual strife, 2011*  
Diorama: wood, glass, cardboard, paper collage, watercolor, and ink  
21 1/2 x 25 1/4 x 12 inches  
54.6 x 64.1 x 30.5 cm  
DZAMA3035



Marcel Dzama  
*Hastily Grabbing Those Innocent Pawns, 2013*  
Diorama: wood, glass, cardboard, paper collage, watercolor, and ink  
21 1/2 x 25 1/8 x 12 inches  
54.6 x 63.8 x 30.5 cm  
DZAMA3454



Marcel Dzama  
*Feeding squirrels to the nuts, 2011*  
Diorama: wood, glass, cardboard, paper collage, watercolor, and ink  
21 1/2 x 25 1/4 x 12 inches  
54.6 x 64.1 x 30.5 cm  
DZAMA2999



Marcel Dzama  
*The Bishop's Head, 2012*  
Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
Sculpture  
Height: 28 1/2 inches, 72.4 cm  
Diameter: 16 1/2 inches, 41.9 cm  
Drawing  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
DZAMA3312



Marcel Dzama  
*The Rook's Head, 2012*  
Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
Sculpture  
Height: 15 1/2 inches, 39.4 cm  
Diameter: 21 inches, 53.3 cm  
Drawing  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
DZAMA3316



Marcel Dzama  
*The Rook's Head, 2012*  
Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
Sculpture  
Height: 16 inches, 40.6 cm  
Diameter: 24 inches, 61 cm  
Drawing  
14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
DZAMA3317



Marcel Dzama  
*The King's Head, 2012*  
Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper  
Sculpture: 21 x 16 1/2 x 19 inches  
53.3 x 41.9 x 48.3 cm  
Drawing: 14 x 11 inches  
35.6 x 27.9 cm  
DZAMA3310



Marcel Dzama

*The Jester's Head, 2012*

Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper

Sculpture: 17 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches

44.5 x 34.3 x 36.8 cm

Drawing: 14 x 11 inches

35.6 x 27.9 cm

DZAMA3311



Marcel Dzama

*The King's Janus Times Two, 2012*

Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper

Sculpture

Height: 17 inches, 43.2 cm

Diameter: 13 inches, 33 cm

Drawing

14 x 11 inches

35.6 x 28 cm

DZAMA3313



Marcel Dzama

*The Pawn's Head, 2012*

Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper

Sculpture: 14 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 15 1/2 inches

36.8 x 34.3 x 39.4 cm

Drawing: 14 x 11 inches

35.6 x 27.9 cm

DZAMA3314



Marcel Dzama

*The Queen's Head, 2012*

Sculpture: Ceramic and tin Drawing: Ink, gouache, and graphite on paper

Sculpture

Height: 23 inches, 58.4 cm

Diameter: 14 inches, 35.6 cm

Drawing

14 x 11 inches

35.6 x 27.9 cm

DZAMA3315