

Chris Johanson

'Considering'

26 October - 20 December 2013

The Modern Institute, Osborne Street

Gallery Open: Monday-Friday, 10am - 6pm, Saturday 12-5pm

The Modern Institute are delighted to present 'Considering', a solo exhibition of new works by Los Angeles based artist and musician Chris Johanson.

Utilising a multi-faceted approach, incorporating painting, sculpture and installations made from found materials, Johanson's second exhibition with the gallery presents a poetical journey through imagery and words. With humble means, and an output that at first glance may appear simplified, Johanson's works communicate a vibrant complexity, addressing the larger notions of life, death and thoughts of an existential nature.

Working on his pieces in situ, Johanson follows a contemplative process, attentively assembling, painting, and positioning his structures. Within the exhibition 'Considering', Johanson has created symbolic forms made from reclaimed wood and painted with a palette of exuberant colours. Familiar tree-like shapes and wooden window frames represent the artist's own memories and associations, as well as pockets of thought that translate ideas of a philosophical and quotidian manner. Paintings on paper and board are installed throughout the space on walls and structures. Through a recurring configuration of wavering brushstrokes, Johanson's painted compositions are homages to those dearest to him, as well as energetic abstractions of colour and pattern. The use of text is an integral element within Johanson's works, using it as a tool to share his own thoughts and to allow him to decompress complicated ideas; "the pieces of what life is made of" reveal heavy thoughts in a playfully calming manner.

Such balanced and reflective methodology is at the centre of Johanson's exhibition. Through metaphorical and figurative representations, underpinned by personal and emotional density, Johanson intends 'Considering' to present a peaceful and positive exploration of being.

Chris Johanson (b. 1968, San Jose, California) lives and works between Portland and Los Angeles. Johanson has exhibited widely in museums and galleries internationally, selected solo exhibitions include: *Within The River of Time Is My Mind*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles, 2013; *Windows*, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, 2012; *Alright Alright*, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, 2011; *Totalities*, Deitch Projects, New York, 2008; *APEX: Chris Johanson*, Portland Art Museum, Portland, 2007; *Problem Does Not Compute*, The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd, Glasgow, 2004; MOMA, San Francisco, 2003; and *Hammer Projects*, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, 2001. Johanson has exhibited in numerous group exhibitions including those at: MOMA, San Francisco; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco; Aspen Art Museum, Aspen; DESTE Foundation, Athens; New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; and Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati. Johanson presented work in the 4th Berlin Biennale, 2006; the 2005 Istanbul Biennial; and the 2002 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Johanson is a musician and the founder of the 'Quiet Music Festival' in Portland, Oregon. A new monograph on the artist has recently been published by Phaidon, as part of their Contemporary Artists series.