



WATERCOLOR WOW

## POINTS OF VIEW

ARTISTS ALEXIS ROCKMAN AND GARY SIMMONS SHOW AT BALDWIN GALLERY.

By Hannah Flegelman

Art buffs and moviegoers alike revere Ang Lee's 2012 film Life of Pi for its rich depictions of seascapes and exotic creatures. Yet few may know that these stunning visuals were sourced from contemporary artist Alexis Rockman. Lee recruited Rockman to develop watercolors that were later implemented in the storyboards for the feature, which went on to win its auteur an Academy Award for best director. Rockman's surreal images in vibrant colors provide the perfect backdrop for the fantastical film.

Look for another bold display from Rockman at Baldwin Gallery, which exhibits the artist's new works on paper. Entitled *Chemical Trespass*, the show features watercolors inspired by his art that drove the visual development of *Life of Pi*. Included is "Meadow (2013)," a large watercolor and gouache on paper. Depicting the upward-facing view of a field of tall reeds and flowers with bees buzzing around the blue sky overhead, the work's imagery is at once crisp and fluid, bright and delicate—a scene so tranquil and idyllic, viewers will feel themselves dreaming up fantasies of their own.

Following the Rockman exhibition is Baldwin Gallery's inaugural presentation with Gary Simmons, the New York-based artist widely recognized for his erasure technique that produces blurred images—a process he began in the early 1990s by smudging chalk on blackboards in his studio. The artist has since used this technique with diverse media to suggest the trace left behind from erased chalk, applying paint or watercolor to various surfaces, from paper to plywood and even an expansive wall of Dallas Cowboys Stadium. The erasure style makes Simmons' work always appear in motion, evoking traces of fleeting memories.

The exhibition, Sweet Science, will also include new paintings and works on paper developed from Arena, Simmons' recent show with Los Angeles gallery Regen Projects. Fashioning himself as a DJ, mixing elements of popular culture to draw attention to items or figures we experience but perhaps overlook in our everyday lives, Simmons' work tackles issues of race, politics and cultural icons, with longstanding subjects including music, Hollywood and sports, specifically boxing. What results is an eye-catching representation of fragmented images that viewers must reconstruct to identify a personal memory or recall our collective history.

Chemical Trespass, Nov. 29-Dec. 20; Sweet Science, Dec. 26-Feb. 2, Baldwin Gallery, 209 S. Galena St., baldwingallery.com

## TIMELESS ART

## To the Max!

Discover a collection of rare masterworks on paper at Galerie Maximillian.

Bon à tirer is the mark of approval an artist gives to begin production on a series of works on paper. Literally translated as "good to go," the bon à tirer (B.A.T.) proof is the definitive version of the image to be replicated for an edition. Complete with annotations and markups, these final impressions are original works of art that are then signed and often gifted to the printer as a token of the artist's appreciation for their collaboration.

Now, Albert Sanford, esteemed owner of Galerie Maximillian, is placing his collection of more than 50 such museum-quality works on display for the gallery's winter exhibition. Entitled From the Atelier... Rare 20th Century Masterworks on Paper, the show will feature one-of-a-kind works on paper by the likes of Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Marc Chagall, Jean Dubuffet and David Hockney, among others.

Sanford spent more than five years amassing these distinctive lithographs, etchings and drawings, many of which contain annotations and dedications from the artists to their partner printers. Rarely does one find unique masterworks on paper outside of major museums, let alone works for sale. The opportunity to examine a personal collection of this magnitude is not to be missed.

Opening reception for From the Atelier... Rare 20th Century Masterworks on Paper, Dec. 21, 6PM to 8PM, exhibit to run through winter season, Galerie Maximillian, 620 E. Cooper Ave., 970.925.6100, galeriemax.com –HF