

3721 Washington Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

NEWS RELEASE

January 9, 2013

KELLEY JOHNSON: NEW PAINTINGS

TUAN LEE: *Grazia*
(Project Room)

ESCOBAR-MORALES: *Resurrection of Hun-Nal-Ye*
(New Media Room)

Opening Reception:
Friday, February 1, 2013, from 5 to 9 pm

Dates of the Exhibition:
February 1-23, 2013

FIRST FRIDAYS IN GRAND CENTER
Friday, February 1, 2013, from 5 to 9 pm

For further information and images please contact:
Bruno L. David, Director
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BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY KELLEY JOHNSON

SAINT LOUIS, MO — January 9, 2013 — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present **Kelley Johnson's** fourth solo exhibition with the gallery, opening Friday, February 1, 2013. On view February 1–23, 2013, the upcoming exhibit continues in his exploration of large-scale painting. A catalogue, *KELLEY JOHNSON: NEW PAINTINGS*, with new essays by **Nicole Yen** and **Damon Freed**, will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.

Johnson's artwork explores ways in which painting can be constructed, interested in his paintings as objects, and their ability to illustrate atmospheres and sensations. Found within Johnson's works are juxtapositions of geometric lines and spontaneously blurred arcs, that evoke feelings of depth and vibration. The repetition of similar shapes creates a melodious rhythm within his pieces, and Johnson's color choices amplify or mute the patterns made—swathes of emerald green interrupt muddy grays, dashes of hot pink race against black. Some moments within the artwork willfully declare their presence. Other moments whisper and glide by. Johnson carefully chooses these attributes to show how his paintings operate as components of a language, rather than remain static canvases upon a wall.

Johnson's upcoming exhibition, born in part from his *Works on Paper Series* in 2011, has the viewer weaving out of the canvases and into the environment. In some pieces, Johnson allows a few simple lines to extend off the edge; in others, he will paint the full surface. These choices emphasize the dialog between depiction and object—the brushstrokes pull the viewer out of the object, yet the depth of the painting reminds the viewer of the object itself.

Johnson received his B.F.A. from Parsons School of Design, New York and his M.F.A. from the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University. He has exhibited his work nationally and internationally. He currently divides his time between St. Louis and Miami.

In the **Project Room**, the gallery presents an exhibition titled "Grazia" by **Tuan Lee**, a Los Angeles and St. Louis-based photographer. This is his first one-person exhibition at Bruno David Gallery.

In what is believed the first fashion magazine, *La Dernière Mode* from the 1870's, we find a manifesto for fashion: "To teach beauty in everyday things is our concern, or a part of it, but even more a putting-to-use in the cause of delicate enjoyment of artists' visions." Art and fashion exist in separate constructed categories. Art, on the one hand, typically involves something valued as a lasting object. Fashion, on the other hand is ephemeral with an accelerated turnover of style. Tuan Lee's current work focuses on merging these two forms of expression. His work shows that art may at times resemble fashion and fashion may look like art.



In the **New Media Room**, the gallery presents a single-channel video work titled "Resurrection of Hun-Nal-Ye" by **Escobar-Morales**. The 21-minute video originated from a performance at the closing for RICH-OO-UH'L, RICH-OO-UH'L at Jolie Laide Gallery in Philadelphia.

In the *Resurrection of Hun-Nal-Ye* (2011), Escobar-Morales perform a funerary ritual, referencing the mythical Mayan tale of the Hero Twins reviving their dead father, the Maize God. In their contemporary interpretation of this ancient story, Escobar-Morales simultaneously represent the body and the soul; the God/ Goddess and twin offspring, in both physical and technological forms using live performance and web based video projection.



ESCOBAR-MORALES is a team comprised of Maya Escobar and Andria Morales. The two artists, based in Chicago and New York respectively, have been working together over the Internet since 2010. They produce digital media and performance art that explores the role of self-representation in visual culture and its ability to deconstruct ingrained ideological conventions.

By locating their performances online where they are free from restrictions of time and place, Escobar-Morales is able to concurrently enact multiple personas while simultaneously creating a unified hybrid self.

Maya Escobar was born in Chicago, IL in 1984. Andria Morales was born in 1982 in New York, NY. Escobar received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2007) and an MFA from Washington University in St. Louis (2009); Morales received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania (2004) and an MFA from Tyler School of Art, Temple University (2008).

Photos:

Kelley Johnson. "Untitled 6" 2012, Acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 74 x 74 inches

Tuan Lee. "Jenny" 2012, Digital c-print

Escobar-Morales. "Resurrection of Hun-Nal-Ye" 2011, Video still

**OUR SEVENTH SEASON
2012 - 2013 ART PROGRAM**

JOAN HALL	September/October 2012
GARY PASSANISE	October/November 2012
RED-WHITE-BLUE	December 2012/January 2013
KELLEY JOHNSON	February 2013
RICHARD HULL	March 2013
ALEX COUWENBERG	April 2013
YVETTE DUBINSKY	May 2013

ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Specializing in contemporary art, Bruno David Gallery has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the best artists that St. Louis offers, along with artists of international reputation. Located in a renovated industrial building in Midtown St. Louis, Grand Center arts district, the Gallery is directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM), and is in close proximity to the Sheldon Art Galleries, The Fox Theatre, and Powell Symphony Hall. Bruno David Gallery's art program introduces new contemporary art to local gallery visitors, and is discussed in publications including, *Art in America*, *Art Papers*, *ArtNet Magazine*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

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