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Garis & Hahn presents:



Sky Kim, *Untitled (Scroll)*, 2010, watercolor on paper, 42x360in

Leaps into the Void:

Shamanism, Meditation, Transcendence, Oblivion

A group exhibition of: Gwyn Joy, Sky Kim, Michael Maxwell, Joe Nanashe
and Phoebe Rathmell

Exhibition Dates: June 18th-August 16th, 2014

Opening Reception: June 18th, 6-8 PM

June 5, 2014 (New York, NY) – Garis & Hahn is pleased to present *Leaps into the Void: Shamanism, Meditation, Transcendence, Oblivion*, a group exhibition featuring mixed media work by an international roster of artists: Gwyn Joy, Sky Kim, Michael Maxwell, Joe Nanashe and Phoebe Rathmell. The five artists were selected for their distinct and compelling practices that explore and illustrate spiritual transcendence in their work. There will be an opening reception at Garis & Hahn (263 Bowery Street) on Wednesday, June 18th from 6 to 8 PM.

Leaps into the Void... is a show united by the philosophical underpinnings and practical objectives of each artist's own practice in addressing concepts related to meditation and altered mental states, physical and mental transcendence and Eastern and Western belief systems related to cycles of life.

Australian artist Phoebe Rathmell uses Seishin Toitsu meditation in the creation of her abstract paintings that employ repetitive motion, extreme concentration, and durational acts to poetic and dizzying effects. The melding of mind and body is evident in her works, as her movement and physical actions become a primary conceptual component to the work, rather than a mere means to an artistic end. A student of zen art philosophy and technique, Rathmell's work is best understood in line with this school, whereby the essence of an artist is revealed through each brush stroke or action rather than the sum work produced.

Michael Maxwell's mixed-media work examines the artist's own inquiry into altered states of consciousness. Informed by his practice that actively engages hypnosis, trance and meditation, Maxwell works with the patterns experienced during these moments of heightened mental focus and perspective as a continuance of the Modern concept of Universality in art. Informing his work with nuanced understanding of non-Western and indigenous cultures, as well as neurological science, Maxwell is able to bring deeper understanding to these ideas, which were originally based on a colonial perspective of 'primitive' cultures in the 20th century. His *Landscape Works* featured in the exhibition directly reference sacred lands through digitally manipulated explorations of energy and human consciousness at these sites.

Sky Kim uses the continuous repeating of gestures in her paintings to achieve a meditative state that captures not only the time spent in their production, but also the moments, emotions and memory experienced during her time with them. Kim's work depicting the repetition of concentric circles, spheres and shapes like grains of rice can best be understood through the filter of her belief in cell memory and reincarnation, a personal subject for the artist who feels compelled by this line of metaphysical questioning after the loss of her twin sister at birth.

Gwyn Joy's paintings and collages are shaped by his experience working with the Tlingit Indian tribe in Alaska. His subjects are people depicted with the features of animals, or animals that have taken human forms, referencing the shamanistic power to assume the identities and attributes of animals through anthropomorphic masks. His work explores the roles nature, solitude, and asceticism play in humanity's search for spirituality, religion and truth, and the use

of metaphysical states to escape, figuratively and literally, from day-to-day reality.

These themes of cycles, transcendence and reinvention are echoed finally in Joe Nanashe's work. His sculptural installation incorporates sound, structure, and light in examination of the role of fall and redemption, a major narrative device in Classical mythology and a recurring concept throughout the Western canon. His installation is created from mundane home repair products, like step ladders and work lamps, with a self playing keyboard scored by the artist to set the tone for celestial ascent.

About the Artists

Gwyn Joy is a Brooklyn based artist. Raised in Oregon, his interest in masks arose while working with the Tlingit Indian tribe in Alaska. He received his BFA from Parsons School of Design in Paris and New York in 2005 and has exhibited at New York galleries including The Red Alder Gallery and his work was published in *The Paris/Atlantic Review* in 2000.

Sky Kim was born in Seoul, Korea and received a Master's Degree in Painting at Pratt Institute in 1996. She is a recipient of the National Museum of Contemporary Art's National Korean Art Competition Awards and a Pratt Institute Art Grant. She has exhibited in galleries, museums and art fairs throughout the U.S. and Korea, including the DUMBO Arts Festival, Brooklyn, NY; Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Korea; MOCA DC, Washington D.C.; Governors Island Art Fair, New York, NY; and most recently at The New Museum, New York, NY.

Joe Nanashe was born in Akron, Ohio, and studied sculpture at the University of Akron and received his MFA at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ as well as the Paul Robeson Emerging Artist Award in 2005. Since then, his work has been shown in multiple editions of the New York, Chicago and Lausanne Underground Film Festivals. His video, *Internet Alphabet*, received an Audience Choice Award at the 2008 Boston Underground Film Festival. He has exhibited internationally in Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Canada, and Argentina. Joe lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Michael Maxwell is a New York based artist. He received an M.F.A from Rutgers University and holds a degree in Art History. His work has been exhibited in group shows at national and international venues. His current body of work explores the relationship between consciousness, abstraction and landscape through his recent investigations into prehistoric ritual sites in the U.K. and America.

Phoebe Rathmell is a Sydney, Australia based artist. She received her BFA and MFA from College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales in addition to her training in Zen calligraphy in Japan with Sarah Moate sensei. She has shown in solo exhibitions in Australia, and in group exhibitions in Australia, the UK and the US.

About Garis & Hahn

Garis & Hahn is a gallery-cum-Kunsthalle that mounts exhibitions focused on conceptual narratives and relevant conversations in contemporary art. By displaying an array of carefully curated artists, the gallery endeavors to provide accessibility, education, awareness, and a market to the art while engaging both the arts community and a broader general audience.

Location

Garis & Hahn
263 Bowery
New York, NY 10002

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Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 11-7
During July and August the gallery will close at 6 PM

Media Contact

A&O

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