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101/exhibit PRESENTS *UNDERTOW*
A SOLO EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS BY JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER
DECEMBER 2, 2011 THROUGH FEBRUARY 8, 2012
101 NE 40th STREET, MIAMI FL

Miami, FL: August 22 – *101/exhibit* will present *Undertow*, an exhibition of new works by Jason Shawn Alexander, the Los Angeles-based Expressionist figurative painter. The show, which opens to the public on Friday, December 2 through February 8, 2012 at 101 NE 40th Street, Miami, Florida, coincides with the publication of a book, also called *Undertow*. An invitation-only preview will take place on December 1.



“I am very pleased to present Jason’s third exhibition at *101/exhibit*,” said 33-year old Sloan Schaffer, who gave the artist his first solo show in 2009, the same year he opened his gallery. “His masterfully rich figures inhabit settings that, at times, evoke the stillness of theater. “These paintings offer the viewer a glimpse of private moments, captured in the wake of a great receding void,” said Schaffer. “With his intense personal narrative combined with overtones of allegory, the paintings are imbued with an essential human drama that is his signature quality.”

Undertow

According to Schaffer, the new works come at a time of great success for the 35-year old artist. “His confidence as a figurative painter is allowing more of the process to show in his work,” said Schaffer. An expert draftsman, Alexander has developed a method for mounting paper to canvas, which enables him to use his inks at the idea’s inception. He draws with fluidity and an energy he has long sought to bring to his paintings. The ink serving as a gestural skeleton, the artist then uses models to help pull out realism and sculpt the flesh of his pieces. His intimate works penetrate to the core of human integrity, often depicting images of figures wrenched in that critical space where the strained coordination of mind, body, and spirit, hangs in the balance of existential woe.

Undertow runs from December 2nd, 2011 - Feb. 8th, 2012. A private reception takes place on December 1, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. The gallery, located at 101 NE 40th Street, Miami, FL, 33137, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., or by appointment.



A Matter of Disagreement

About Jason Shawn Alexander

35-year old Jason Shawn Alexander’s career started when his self-published illustrations caught the attention of mainstream and independent comic book publishers. Alexander worked for years as a draftsman for Marvel,

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DC, Dark Horse, and Oni Press. His friendship with renowned painter Kent Williams found the two sharing a studio for a time, painting side by side. Today, he has worked his way to prominence as an authentic leading voice among young contemporary American figurative painters.

A keen autodidact, Jason Shawn Alexander draws from the vulnerability, fear, and underlying strength of his rural Deep-South upbringing in a small Tennessee town, with a population of 3,000, noted as the birthplace of the Delta Blues. Encouraged by his factory-employed father to pursue a career as an artist, Alexander accrued through staunch pragmatism and southern tenacity an extensive knowledge of fine art. Citing major influences in Francis Bacon, Anselm Kiefer, Kathe Kollwitz, Cy Twombly, Alice Neel, and Patrick Graham; his earliest and enduring inspirations came from the art books kept by his father of Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Goya, and Degas.



With Family

From his debut solo exhibition “Insomniac” at 101/exhibit, it was evident that Alexander had traced the thread and was pulling it through. A reviewer from ART NEWS was moved to write, “Recalling Bacon’s portraits, the figures seem to cry out... Alexander’s impassioned application of oil paints underscores the barely contained violence of the visions, lingering like intimations of half-remembered dreams.”

Abstract elements now and again emerge by way of exaggerated gestures, elongated limbs, the doubling or tripling of images, hints of apparitions, or the intrusion of foreign materials and text into the paint, which satisfy the rich psychological nature of Alexander’s work.

Alexander’s work has been the subject of number of solo exhibitions, including the Corey Helford Gallery, Culver City, CA, and 101/exhibit, Miami, FL, where he is currently represented. In 2009 his portrait hung in the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. His work is collected both in the United States and abroad.

About Sloan Schaffer and 101/exhibit

With a mission to discover, promote, and preserve the works of great contemporary artists, 101/exhibit, established by Sloan Schaffer in 2008, has become an important destination in the burgeoning cultural and commercial landscape of Miami. Founded on his own personal love of collecting, Schaffer presents the works of modern masters and emerging artists- to an ever-growing numbers of collectors and art enthusiasts in his modernist 5,000-square foot gallery space in the heart of Miami’s Design District. Among the artists whose work he represents are: David Bowers, Christopher Carter, Claudio Ethos, Joshua Hagler, Marilyn Manson, Pat Rocha, Jorge Santos, and Ted Vasin. Alexander Calder, Albert Paley, Larry Rivers, Michael Lucero, Peter Voulkos and Larry Rivers are also featured.

An architect, jewelry designer and metal smith in his own right, Schaffer has a keen eye and great appreciation for art and design. His passion for collecting is evidenced in his contemporary Coconut Grove residence, designed by the Cuban architect Roney Mateu, where he resides with his wife, Carli Levine-Schaffer. Together the couple has amassed an impressive collection of mid-twentieth century furniture, which they juxtaposed with a lively and ever-changing mix of emerging and established artists.

For more information phone 305-573-2101 or visit www.101exhibit.com