

LARRY JOHNSON: A SURVEY

Art Basel Miami Beach 2011
December 1st - December 4th
Vernissage November 30th
Booth A09



Untitled Green Screen Memory (13 Fires), 2010
Color photograph, framed: 40 x 68 inches, 101.6 x 172.7 cm
Edition of 3 + 2 Aps

Marc Jancou Contemporary is pleased to announce our participation in Art Basel Miami Beach 2011. The fair will be open to the public December 1st through 4th, and the preview will take place on November 30th. We will be located in Booth A09.

For the fair, Marc Jancou Contemporary presents *Larry Johnson: A Survey*, a richly nuanced overview of the quintessential Los Angeles artist Larry Johnson. Johnson rose to prominence in the 1980s with a highly formalized yet rigorously conceptual body of work. Influenced by the work of fellow Los Angeles artists Ed Ruscha, Douglas Huebler, and John Baldessari, Johnson approaches the medium of photography as a conceptual framework in which text and image are seamlessly united.

The works on view span over two decades of Johnson's career, presenting a comprehensive insight into the artist's dynamic oeuvre to date. The earliest piece in the exhibition, the important *John-John and Bobby* diptych of 1988, marks the first time Johnson incorporated original text into one of his works. These fragmented narratives of Los Angeles hustler life reference his overarching interest in politics and psychology, while formally exploring the effects of typology on the story's conceptual content. *Untitled Green Screen Memory (13 Fires)*, from 2010, illustrates one of Johnson's most recent investigations into his long-standing interest in media and Hollywood. The work depicts a 1993 *Los Angeles Times* covering the story of a devastating California forest fire, shown against the distinctive background of a green screen. The image's blurred white edges close in on its subject, evoking the effect of white fade-outs used in early film experiments and thus exemplifying Johnson's fascinations with both the medium itself, and the human stories it conveys.

Through these pieces, and the dozen additional works spanning from 1988 to 2010, this survey traces Johnson's ongoing commentary on contemporary politics, the mass media apparatus, and the cult of celebrity, showing him at his most playfully witty and cerebrally aloof. Included are works from Johnson's two recent exhibitions with Marc Jancou Contemporary: *Frame Tales* (2010) and *Larry Johnson* (2007).

Larry Johnson was born in Long Beach, California in 1959. He attended the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, where he received his BFA (1982) and MFA (1984). Since the 1980s, Johnson has exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the United States and abroad. In 2009, a major survey of the artist's work was organized by and presented at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, accompanied by an exhibition catalogue, available through the gallery. The artist currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Founded in 2007, Marc Jancou Contemporary is devoted to promoting and presenting the work of emerging and mid-career artists. The gallery's full roster includes Tim Berresheim, Ginny Bishton, Ross Chisholm, Michael Cline, Slawomir Elsner, Meredith James, Nick Lowe, Alan Michael, Albrecht Schnider, Tomoaki Suzuki, Stephanie Taylor, Jacques Louis Vidal and Marnie Weber. In September 2011, Jancou, a Geneva-based exhibition space opened with Carter: *Forthcoming*. This inaugural exhibition will be on view through December 23rd. Future exhibitions in New York include Alan Michael, Albrecht Schnider, Tomoaki Suzuki, and Marnie Weber. In Geneva, future exhibitions include Ross Chisholm, Albrecht Schnider, Renee So, Michael Bauer, Ken Lum, Erica Baum and David Noonan.

For more information, please contact Aniko Berman: aniko@marcjancou.com / Liana Gorman: liana@marcjancou.com or call 917-415-5917 / 860-748-5189.