

(April 15-26)

2— The Front Room

TOM JOHNSON



An American artist living in Turin, Tom Johnson produces sculptures, video monologues, and live performances. His introspective artworks explore ideas of intimacy, etiquette, shared public space and the terms of social interaction. In *The Front Room*, Johnson presents a series of new, large-scale works on paper.

In his most recent series of drawings Johnson has undertaken a new effort. If we imagine, for a moment, that any artwork is a type of proposal, Johnson's earlier works have tended to propose frustration, anger, and a utopian belief that it might be possible to pierce the veil and live more authentically.

By contrast, his new drawings are less dramatic and more theatrical. Their conscious theatricality consists of a meditation on how to present drama with the use of scenery, ornament, and vague surrealism. Protected by the stage-curtain of theater, Johnson's work has become more private and guarded; as such, he proposes, it has become more natural.

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Tom Johnson was born New York in 1966, and he currently lives and works in Turin, Italy. He presented a solo exhibition at MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies, Cambridge, and his work has been included in group exhibitions including the Renaissance Society, Chicago, *T1 Turin Triennial*, Castello di Rivoli, Turin; *Greater New York 2005*, P.S.1, Long Island City, New York; Arthouse, Austin; and Sculpture Center, Long Island City. He is represented by the CANADA Gallery, New York, and Guido Costa Projects, Turin.

Image:

Untitled, 2009

Graphite on paper

96 x 68 inches

Courtesy of the artist

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