

MATT JOHNSON

Born in New York, currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Renowned for his wry marriages of everyday subjects with raw physical matter, Matt Johnson's sculptures explore the paradox of visual forms through unorthodox and surprising materials. Whether rendering concentric Hula Hoops in steel to resemble nuclear diagrams or plastic beer cups in painted bronze, Johnson's sculptures point not only to the gestural potential of consumer experience, but to the primitive connection humans have with materiality. Recently focusing on wood carvings of crumpled objects of refuse, Johnson's painstaking renderings of crushed boxes, broken Styrofoam pads, and smashed plastic present tossed-off remnants of everyday life as sublime formalism. Johnson has exhibited widely in such international venues as: The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2005, 2009); The Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2007); The Saatchi Gallery, London (2009); the Hydra Workshop, Hydra, Greece (2011). His site-specific work *Untitled (Swan)* was unveiled as part of *Wanderlust*, a group exhibition installed along New York's Highline in 2016.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Wood Sculpture*, 303 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 *Wanderlust*, High Line Public Project, New York, NY
Phoenix Rising: The Valley Collects, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- 2015 *Lautner Beams*, Pacific Design Center, CA
- 2014 *Blum & Poe*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 *The Perfect Show*, 303 Gallery, New York, NY
Lifelike, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA
Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin, TX
- 2012 *Matt Johnson*, 303 Gallery, New York, NY
Funny, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY
Lifelike, Walker Museum of Art, Minneapolis, MN
New Orleans Museum of Art, LA
Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA
Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, TX
- 2009 *Abstract America*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Second Nature: The Valentine-Adelson Collection, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2005 *Uncertain States of America: American Art in the 3rd Millennium*, Astrup Fearnley, Oslo, Norway
Bard College, New York, NY
Serpentine Gallery, London, UK
Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland

MUSEUM AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Ekebergparken Sculpture Park, Oslo, Norway
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL
The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Art, Oslo, Norway
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2017 Michael Wilson, "Matt Johnson, 303 Gallery," Artforum, March 6
"Goings on about town: Matt Johnson," The New Yorker, January 30
"9 Art Events to Attend in New York City This Week," Artnews, January 9
- 2016 Dan Duray, "A walking tour of New York's High Line with Cecilia Alemani," The Art Newspaper, July 28
- 2009 Charlie Finch, "Pascal's Puzzles," Artnet News, February 3
- 2005 Dough Harvey, "Good Thing: Emerging LA Sculptors at the Hammer," LA Weekly, February 4
- 2004 Jerry Saltz, "An Artist Worms into Some Nicely Dicey Sculptural Terrain," The Village Voice, April 6
Brian Sholis, "Matt Johnson," Artforum, March 31
Victoria Disilverio, "A night out with Matt Johnson: New Artist in Town," The New York Times, March 21