

# renwick gallery

## *he is transparent*

January 13- February 18, 2012

Tommy Hartung, Eli Hansen, Cameron Jamie, Tony Matelli, Joyce Pensato

Curated by Matthew Strauss

An exhibition in lieu of a painting, a painting in lieu of a construct. *he is transparent* begins with a painting. The painting is absent. It is a still life, a portrait, a tableau. The painting is quickly abandoned— it never mattered.

### *In Memory of My Feelings*

My quietness has a man in it, he is transparent  
and he carries me quietly, like a gondola, through the streets.  
He has several likenesses, like stars and years, like numerals.

My quietness has a number of naked selves,  
so many pistols I have borrowed to protect myself  
from creatures who too readily recognize my weapons  
and have murder in their heart!  
though in winter  
they are warm as roses, in the desert  
taste of chilled anisette.  
At times, withdrawn,  
I rise into the cool skies  
and gaze on at the imponderable world with the simple identification  
of my colleagues, the mountains. Manfred climbs to my nape,  
speaks, but I do not hear him,  
I'm too blue.

An elephant takes up his trumpet,  
money flutters from the windows of cries, silk stretching its mirror  
across shoulder blades. A gun is "fired."  
One of me rushes  
to window #13 and one of me raises his whip and one of me  
flutters up from the center of the track amidst the pink flamingoes,  
and underneath their hooves as they round the last turn my lips  
are scarred and brown, brushed by tails, masked in dirt's lust,  
definition, open mouths gasping for the cries of the bettors for the lungs  
of earth.

So many of my transparencies could not resist the race!  
Terror in earth, dried mushrooms, pink feathers, tickets,  
a flaking moon drifting across the muddied teeth,  
the imperceptible moan of covered breathing,  
love of the serpent!  
I am underneath its leaves as the hunter crackles and pants  
and bursts, as the barrage balloon drifts behind a cloud  
and animal death whips out its flashlight,  
whistling  
and slipping the glove off the trigger hand. The serpent's eyes  
reddden at sight of those thorny fingernails, he is so smooth!  
My transparent selves  
flail about like vipers in a pail, writhing and hissing  
without panic, with a certain justice of response  
and presently the aquiline serpent comes to resemble the Medusa.

Frank O'Hara

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Eli Hansen lives and works in upstate New York. Recent solo exhibitions include *You Know We're Nowhere Near There, Right?*, Jonathan Viner, London; *Next Time, they'll know it's us*, The Company, Los Angeles, CA; *This is the Last Place I Could Hide*, MacCarone, New York, NY; *We Used To Get So High*, Lawrimore Project, Seattle, WA; *It Was One of My Best Comes* (with Oscar Tuazon), Parc Saint Leger, Pougues Les Eaux, France; *Predicting the Present*, The Company, Los Angeles, CA.

Tommy Hartung received his MFA from Columbia University in 2006 and his BFA from SUNY Purchase in 2004. Recent exhibitions include *Greater New York* at MOMA/PS1, Queens, NY; *Reconstruction I*, On Stellar Rays; *Impossible Vacation* at White Flag Projects, St. Louis, MO; *The Ascent of Man*, On Stellar Rays, New York, NY; Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY; Gresham's Ghost, New York, NY; as well as screenings at the Rotterdam Film Festival, Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY, and Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York, NY.

Cameron Jamie lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include *Statuettes and Drawings*, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France; "*An Evening with Cameron Jamie*" screening of four films at the Museum of Modern Art, as well as Barbara Gladstone Gallery, New York, NY. Recent group exhibitions include *Absentee Landlord*, Walker Museum of Art, Minneapolis, MI; *The Artist's Museum-Grand*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; 6<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany; *Sonic Youth Etc: Sensational Fix*, Centro De Arte Dos De Mayo, Madrid, Spain. His work has also been included in the Whitney Biennial, and the Venice Biennale.

Tony Matelli lives and works in New York. He has had recent solo exhibitions at Kunstraum Bethanien, Berlin, Germany; Andrehn Schiptjenko, Stockholm, Sweden; Stephane Simoens Contemporary, Knokke Belgium; Green Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France. Recent group exhibitions include *December*, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, NY; *Personal Structures*, 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; *Dark Christmas*, Leo Koenig, New York, NY; *Pretty on the Inside*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY; *Impossible Vacation*, White Flag Projects, St. Louis, MO; Galerie Charlot Moser, Geneva, Switzerland; Spencer Brownstone, New York, NY; Greene Naftali, New York, NY;

Joyce Pensato lives and works in New York. She has forthcoming solo exhibitions with Friedrich Petzel, New York, NY and Corbett and Dempsey, Chicago, IL, as well as recent solo exhibitions at Hotel, London, UK; Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, France; Capitain Petzel, Berlin, Germany; Friedrich Petzel, New York, NY. Recent group exhibitions include *December*, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, *Verschiebungersatz*, Kimmerich, New York, NY; *Make Skateboards*, I-20 Gallery, New York, NY; *A Painting Show*, Harris Lieberman, New York, NY.

Matthew Strauss is the founder and director of White Flag Projects, a non-profit art space in St. Louis, Missouri, where he has organized over 40 exhibitions. He lives in New York and St. Louis.