

Press Review

'A Pluribus Unum: A conversation with Marcus Jansen', Juxtapoz Magazine, September 2020

E Pluribus Unum: A Conversation with Marcus Jansen

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The life journey of NY-born artist [Marcus Jansen](#) strongly informed the focus of his work which speaks of the powerful struggle to grapple with the nuanced reality of our time, while promoting dialogue about the inherent social issues. While this current moment might feel like a particularly fitting time to present his paintings, the themes have been a lifelong absorption, and thus, lead to this concentrated retrospective of his work to be presented at [The Cornell Fine Arts Museum](#), just outside of Orlando, Florida, on September 18th.

Born in the Bronx, raised in NYC, as well as Germany when living with his parents, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in his early twenties, and afterwards, fully embraced a life in the arts. After a 25 year creative career, documented in the 2017 film *Examine and Report*, his new retrospective show *E Pluribus Unum* focuses on paintings made in the last 15 years of his practice. Exhibiting some never before seen works from 2019, the Cornell's curator Gisela Carbonell focused on underscoring Jansen's ongoing engagement with social, political, and justice issues. Topics of systemic racism, political protest, police tactics, as well as an all encompassing study of history and the human condition have always been front and center of his personal and creative life.

We got in touch with Marcus Jansen recently and talked a bit more about this milestone showcase, as well as the location and moment in time in which it is taking place.





Is the subject of COVID-19 present in the work ,and how did you present it based on your experience?

I would say the aftermath or awareness of a COVID-19 world have been in my works for two decades. The now very obvious economic inequality that the virus has exposed the failing structures of political power and their inability to act to save lives when needed health services for ordinary Americans, education, environment, increasing militarization, etc. COVID-19 exposed it in one example to those that were not as familiar with these issues. Economic, military and psychological conditions on humanity have always interested me and I've expressed them through landscape painting.

How have you activated the [Marcus Breen Foundation Fund](#) in terms of current events and do you plan to connect with the show?

We are still in the early stage of the foundation fund that were recently opened right before COVID-19. The financing is handled by the SW Florida Community Foundation, in Fort Myers. We are always inviting donors and patrons to join us and we hope to activate where needed in the near future. The goal of the foundation fund is to assist veterans and low-income children with and in their arts.

Marcus Breen exhibition at the [Come I Fine Arts Museum](#) opens on September 18, 2020