

## Rashid Johnson Curates | Farewell Rodney

New York based interdisciplinary artist **Rashid Johnson** (b. 1977, Chicago, USA) has been notably recognized for his works ever since being included, at the age 24, in the highly talked about 2001 exhibition "Freestyle," organized by Thelma Golden at the Studio Museum in Harlem. The exhibition featured "*Seeing in the Dark*", his series of portraits of unsuccessful African-American men living in Chicago.

A term coined by Golden and commonly used in relation to the "Freestyle" exhibition and to Johnson's work is *Post-Black Art*, referring to artists who react to racial issues from a new and sober standpoint. She has defined it in the following way:

"To approach a conversation about 'black art' ultimately meant embracing and rejecting the notion of such a thing at the very same time. It was characterized by artists who were adamant about not being labeled as 'black' artists, though their work was steeped, in fact deeply interested in, redefining complex notions of blackness."

Johnson specializes in wall-mounted sculptures, yet also works with video, paint, and ready-mades. He studied at Columbia College Chicago and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, was included in the 54th Venice Biennale (2011), had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and in museums across America, and was a 2012 Hugo Boss Prize finalist.

*Farewell Rodney* is a kickoff to the collaboration between Rashid Johnson and Sommer Contemporary Art. In this exhibition, Johnson presents a lineup of young artists working mainly in New York, marking a renewed interest in materiality and abstract art. Following a generation dealing greatly with new-media and digital flat formats, these artists commonly return to methods of assemblage, sculpture, and abstract oil painting.

This will be the first time up-and-coming and already critically acclaimed artists such as Angel Otero, Clifford Owens, Kon Trubkovich and Johnson himself will be showing their work in Tel-Aviv, as part of a cohesive group exhibition putting a spotlight on these artists' uncompromising artistic approach.

**Participating Artists:**

Terry Adkins

Robert Davis

Alex Ernst

Sheree Hovsepian

Rashid Johnson

Tony Lewis

Angel Otero

Clifford Owens

Kon Trubkovich

Phil Wagner

**Curator:**

Rashid Johnson

**Dates:**

1.1.13 – 16.2.13

**Attached Images:**

Rashid Johnson, detail from *Farewell Rodney*, 2012

Branded red oak flooring, black soap, wax

184 x 126 x 8 cm

Alex Ernst, detail from *Stand by*, 2012

Red oak treated with olive oil, cedar, twine, ink, steel

244 x 30.5 x 61 cm

**Credit for images:**

Sommer Contemporary Art, Tel-Aviv