

101 / e x h i b i t

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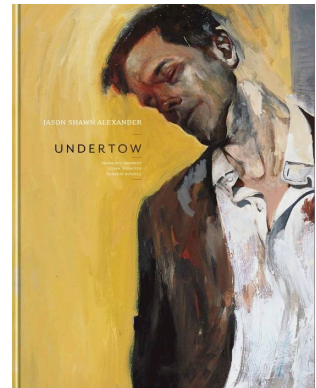
The Evocative New Works of Jason Shawn Alexander

UNDERTOW

**By Shana Nys Dambrot, Sloan Schaffer, and Herbert Russell,
with preface by Jason Shawn Alexander**

Miami, FL: Sloan Schaffer, founder of *101/exhibit*, announces the publication of ***UNDERTOW***, which showcases the exciting new works of Los Angeles-based Expressionist figurative painter Jason Shawn Alexander, in conjunction with the artist's third solo show of the same name at *101/exhibit* in 101 NE 40th Street in Miami, on Dec. 2, 2011 through Feb. 8, 2012.

UNDERTOW (\$75.00) features 114 illustrations that detail Alexander's mastery of draftsmanship. In this latest series, the artist mounts paper on canvas, layering ink and paint to create mixed-media works with a voyeuristic sensibility. "Jason Shawn Alexander is ... quickly becoming one of the most exciting young painters working today. With his intense personal narrative combined with overtones of allegory, the paintings are imbued with an essential human drama that is his signature quality," says Schaffer, who discovered the artist three years ago.



Alexander "draws with a fluidity and an energy he has long sought to bring to his paintings," adds Schaffer, who notes that the "intimate works penetrate to the core of human integrity, often depicting images of figures wrenched in that critical space where the strained coordination of mind, body, and spirit hangs in the balance of existential woe."

"I really love the idea of including the drawing in a painting. Drawing is key. It's more immediate, has so much more impact," says Alexander. Of his subjects in ***UNDERTOW***, he notes, "Figurative work gives me something more literal to relate to than pure abstraction. And the beauty of expressionism is that it can be so much more emotional. I want to get the implication of someone there. I want to paint the feeling of walking into a room, catching someone when you're not supposed to. Not because it's awful, but because it's so private."

With a preface by the artist and commentary by Schaffer and fine-art writers Shana Nys Dambrot and Herbert Russell, *UNDERTOW* illuminates the stories behind the drama playing out on the canvases of Alexander's provocative new series.

About the Authors

LA Canvas Arts (and Books) Editor **Shana Nys Dambrot** is an art critic, curator, and author based in Los Angeles. Formerly Managing Editor at *Flavorpill*, she is currently LA Editor for *Whitehot Magazine*.

Herbert Russell is a Los Angeles-based writer who focuses on contemporary fine artists.

About Jason Shawn Alexander

35-year old Jason Shawn Alexander's career started when his self-published illustrations caught the attention of mainstream and independent comic book publishers. Alexander worked for years as a draftsman for Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, and Oni Press. His friendship with renowned painter Kent Williams found the two sharing a studio for a time, painting side by side. Today, he has worked his way to prominence as an authentic leading voice among young contemporary American figurative painters.

A keen autodidact, Jason Shawn Alexander draws from the vulnerability, fear, and underlying strength of his rural Deep-South upbringing in a small Tennessee town, with a population of 3,000, noted as the birthplace of the Delta Blues. Encouraged by his factory-employed father to pursue a career as an artist, Alexander accrued through staunch pragmatism and southern tenacity an extensive knowledge of fine art. Citing major influences in Francis Bacon, Anselm Kiefer, Kathe Kollwitz, Cy Twombly, Alice Neel, and Patrick Graham; his earliest and enduring inspirations came from the art books kept by his father of Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Goya, and Degas.

From his debut solo exhibition "Insomniac" at 101/exhibit, it was evident that Alexander had traced the thread and was pulling it through. A reviewer from ART NEWS was moved to write, "Recalling Bacon's portraits, the figures seem to cry out... Alexander's impassioned application of oil paints underscores the barely contained violence of the visions, lingering like intimations of half-remembered dreams."

Abstract elements now and again emerge by way of exaggerated gestures, elongated limbs, the doubling or tripling of images, hints of apparitions, or the intrusion of foreign materials and text into the paint, which satisfy the rich psychological nature of Alexander's work.

Alexander's work has been the subject of number of solo exhibitions, including the Corey Helford Gallery, Culver City, CA, and 101/exhibit, Miami, FL, where he is currently represented. In 2009 his portrait hung in the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. His work is collected both in the United States and abroad.

About 101/exhibit

With a mission to discover, promote, and preserve the works of great contemporary artists, *101/exhibit*, established by Sloan Schaffer in 2008, has become an important destination in the burgeoning cultural and commercial landscape of Miami. Founded on his own personal love of

collecting, Schaffer presents the works of modern masters and emerging artists- to an ever-growing numbers of collectors and art enthusiasts in his modernist 5,000-square foot gallery space in the heart of Miami's Design District. Among the artists whose work he represents are: David Bowers, Christopher Carter, Claudio Ethos, Joshua Hagler, Marilyn Manson, Pat Rocha, Jorge Santos, and Ted Vasin. Alexander Calder, Albert Paley, Larry Rivers, Michael Lucero, Peter Voulkos and Larry Rivers are also featured.

UNDERTOW

By Jason Shawn Alexander, Shana Nys Dambrot, Sloan Schaffer, and Herbert Russell

Illustrations by Jason Shawn Alexander

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The gallery, located at 101 NE 40th Street, Miami, FL, 33137, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., or by appointment.

For general information, phone 305-573-2101 or visit www.101exhibit.com

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