

CRISTIN TIERNEY

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Joe Fig *Other Artists*

Dayton Art Institute

October 15, 2022 – January 15, 2023

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to announce Joe Fig's solo exhibition *Other Artists* at the Dayton Art Institute. Featuring paintings, sculptures and photography, the exhibition surveys over two decades of Fig's career. *Other Artists* opens October 15, 2022 and continues through January 15, 2023.

Joe Fig has long been interested in examining what usually goes overlooked in the art world. The artist first came to prominence in the early 2000s for his exacting sculptural replications of artists' studios, which pulled back the curtain on the working spaces of such artists as Robert Rauschenberg, Alex Katz, Inka Essenhigh, and April Gornik. Each has been created to scale with handmade and found objects, guided by Fig's meticulous attention to detail. Every paint splatter on the floor is intentional; each crumpled piece of paper has been specially placed. *Other Artists* includes a selection of these sculptures alongside Fig's photographs of them.

Subsequently, Fig also created paintings and drawings of artists working in their studios as well as sculptures of their worktables. These works were the culmination of an extremely involved process, in which Fig interviewed the artist before photographing and measuring their studio—documentation that he later

CRISTIN TIERNEY

used to produce his work. Fig considers these works to be portraits of the artist, and he carefully selects the tools, spaces, and poses that he feels crystallize their creative essence.

In his most recent work, Fig turns his focus from the places where art is made to the places where it is shared with the public. Called his *Contemplation* series (2016 – present), these paintings depict art viewers and artworks he has experienced in numerous exhibitions over the past six years. A regular observer of art exhibitions, Fig trains his eye by contemplating other artists' work, choosing to paint exhibitions that he finds especially inspiring. The resulting paintings encompass a rich diversity of styles, periods, and artistic media.

Fig's paintings about well-known modernist artists offer a fitting coda to the exhibition. His *Cinematic Paintings* (2011-2012) are culled from popular films about artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh, and Klimt. The works both acknowledge and disarm the mythology attached to artists, showing the painters in quiet moments and conversation rather than furious activity. Similarly, Fig's paintings of famous artists' palettes tackle the notion that there is something magical about the tools an artist has used—while also hinting at the different working styles employed by some of history's best-known painters. Considered as a cohesive body of work for the first time, *Other Artists* is a celebration of the creative process and a revelation regarding the journey of an artwork from original idea to public consumption.

Other Artists is the largest survey to date of Fig's works. It was drawn from the collections of Ronnie and John Shore and the James F. Dicke Family collection.

Joe Fig (b. 1968, Seaford, NY) has produced a diverse body of work encompassing painting, sculpture, photography, and drawing, in which he examines the role of the artist, the creative process, and the self-made universe of the artist's studio. His work has been exhibited at the Orlando Museum of Art, Chazen Museum of Art, Fleming Museum, Bass Museum of Art, Parrish Art Museum, Toledo Museum of Art, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Norton Museum of Art, Hood Museum of Art, and New Britain Museum of American Art. Numerous institutions hold his work in their collections, including the Bruce Museum of Arts and Science, Chazen Museum of Art, Parrish Art Museum, Toledo Museum of Art, Norton Museum of Art, Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, Hood Museum of Art, Library of Congress, New Britain Museum of American Art, and New York Public Library. Fig is the author of two critically acclaimed books, *Inside the Artist's Studio* (2015) and *Inside the Painter's Studio* (2009). He is the Department Chair of both Fine Arts and Visual Studies at Ringling College of Art + Design. His studio is located in Sarasota, FL.

The **Dayton Art Institute** is committed to enriching the community by creating meaningful experiences with art that are available to all. In addition to exhibiting outstanding special exhibitions and impressive collections of art from throughout the world, the museum is renowned for education programming that includes an array of offerings for diverse audiences.

The Dayton Art Institute was founded in a downtown mansion in 1919 as the Dayton Museum of Fine Arts. The new museum grew rapidly during its first decade, quickly outgrowing its original home, and moved to a newly designed Edward B. Green building in 1930. The DAI was modeled after the Casino in the gardens of the Villa Farnese at Caprarola, and the front hillside stairway after the Italian Renaissance garden stairs at the Villa d'Este, near Rome, and Italy. The nearly 60,000-square-foot building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum's collection contains more than 27,000 objects spanning 5,000 years.

In 2019, the museum celebrated the centennial of its founding, with two community open house events and more than 100 Happenings for 100 Years. With innovative programming, increased use of technology and expanded services, the Dayton Art Institute continues to thrive as it enters its second century.

Founded in 2010, **Cristin Tierney Gallery** is a contemporary art gallery located on The Bowery with a deep commitment to the presentation, development, and support of a roster of both established and emerging artists. Its program emphasizes artists engaged with critical theory and art history, with an emphasis on

CRISTIN TIERNEY

conceptual, video, and performance art. Education and audience engagement is central to our mission. Cristin Tierney Gallery is a member of the ADAA.

Image

Joe Fig, *Jackson Pollock, 1950*, 2002. c-print on aluminum. 30 x 40 inches (76.2 x 101.6 cm). Collection Ronnie and John Shore.

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