

MACAULAY & CO. FINE ART

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Jonah Samson

Every Exit is an Entrance Somewhere Else

April 8, opening from noon to 5pm.

Macaulay & Co. Fine Art is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent work by Jonah Samson.

The exhibition's title, *Every Exit is an Entrance Somewhere Else*, is taken from Tom Stoppard's absurdist play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, which follows two minor characters from *Hamlet* as they contemplate the role of fate and chance in their own tragic demise.

In his second solo exhibition at Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Jonah Samson continues to infuse new life into found photographs with a large installation of 150 vintage photographs in the main gallery. The photographs depict people pointing to one another in an endless series of imaginary exits and entrances. This clash between free will and destiny also haunts the appropriated images of puppets, which have been produced using an archaic photographic printing technique that uses the chemical reaction between ocean salt, silver particles and the sun's radiation.

The shift of photographic production from a "wet" or chemical process to digital code has led to the eradication of traditional black and white silver gelatin printing. The ghostly remnants of this fading process are visible in old family photo albums that have been subjected to chemicals, which remove the silver particles from each photograph. We are left with shadows and lost memories.

In reference to Robert Rauschenberg's *Erased de Kooning Drawing* (1953), Samson employs a similar chemical process to dissolve the silver particles from a photograph by fellow artist Stephen Waddell, leaving almost a blank piece of paper behind.

Jonah Samson is a self-taught artist who has exhibited nationally and internationally. He presented his first solo exhibition with Macaulay & Co. Fine art in 2015 and his exhibition *Another Happy Day* (2013) at Presentation House was listed as one of the top 10 shows that season by *Canadian Art* magazine. The publication that accompanied *Another Happy Day* was listed as one of the top releases at the New York Art Book Fair by *The New Yorker* magazine that year. Other exhibitions include *Otherworldly* at the Musée Eugène Leroy, France and the Museum of Arts and Design, New York; *Unearthed* at Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in the U.K. He currently lives on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.