

DANA  
SCHUTZ

& RYAN  
JOHNSON



Nemeth Art Center  
July 7 - October 1, 2022



## **Dana Schutz & Ryan Johnson**

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### Director's Statement

The Nemeth Art Center is thrilled to present a two-person show featuring work from Dana Schutz and Ryan Johnson. A continuation of our "Couples Counseling" curatorial series that pairs the work of artist-couples, the Nemeth is excited to be the first institution to present their work together, and to be the first Minnesota-based institution to show a body of work from Schutz.

Major thanks to Shu Ming Lee at David Zwirner, Lauren Marinaro at Marinaro Gallery, Alexandra Slattery at Two Palms, Schutz and Johnson's studio manager, Josh Minkus, and all affiliated individuals who helped see this exhibition to fruition. And most importantly, to Dana and Ryan for their openness and generosity, and for sharing such strong work with our organization and audience.





## Dana Schutz, Artist Bio

Dana Schutz is known for formally inventive canvases that combine figuration and abstraction to construct complex visual narratives that engage the capacity of painting to represent subjective experience. Often depicting figures in seemingly impossible, enigmatic, or invented situations, her expressive canvases convey emotions and psychological states of mind that reveal the complications, tensions, and ambiguities of contemporary life.

As Peter Schjeldahl notes, Schutz “vivifies present conditions of life on a faltering planet as dramatically as an artist can while staying devoted to aesthetic ideals.” She achieves this through her singular approach to the medium of painting. Schjeldahl continues, “Painting wet-in-wet with oils, building thick and eventful surfaces, she creates allegories of uncertain but torrid, gnashing implication, a bit like the enigmatic narratives of the German modern master Max Beckmann, but less solemn. She does this with almost preposterously extraordinary gifts for composition, paint handling, and, in particular, color, suffusing clashes of hue and tone with ghostly essences of a chromatic unity that you feel rather than quite see.”

Schutz was born in 1976 in Livonia, Michigan, and received her BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio and her MFA from Columbia University, New York. She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.





## Ryan Johnson, Artist Bio

Johnson's figurative sculptures depict dreamlike subjects that evoke both stillness and the potential for action. Across a variety of mediums, Johnson has remained preoccupied with the paradoxes of sculpture - how static forms can suggest movement, lightness, or flight. Critic Karen Rosenberg described his work in the *New York Times* as being composed of "strange spatial compressions, surreal displacements and quasi-Futurist illusions of movement."

A dog chasing its tail, a frog poised on a man's head, a wounded bird: in Johnson's work, humans are social animals, and animals are creatures of fascination and insight. Johnson's recurrent themes are family, mortality, frailty and strength, with time as the unifying metaphor, and the primary material of sculpture.

Symbolic forms and subjects are just as readily understood as literal - a frog is a frog, a dog is a dog - with the implication that metaphor is there if we want it, but there is wonder in the thing itself, without language or elaborate context.

Ryan Johnson (b. 1978, Karachi, Pakistan) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Recent exhibitions include shows at Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL; Sikkema Jenkins and Co., New York, NY; The Suzanne Geiss Company, New York, NY; and Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY.





Ryan Johnson

*Dog Chasing Tail*, 2021

Edition of 3, 1 AP

Bronze

33 x 52 x 52 inches





**Dana Schutz**

*The Wanderer*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches





Dana Schutz

*Bad Timing*, 2018

Edition. of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches





Dana Schutz

*Pan*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches





Dana Schutz

*Woman and Dog*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches



Ryan Johnson

*Large Wounded Bird*, 2020

Edition of 3, 1 AP

Epoxy, clay, and metal

64.5 x 38 x 35 inches





Dana Schutz

*Weeper*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches



Dana Schutz

*Beat Out the Sun*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches





Ryan Johnson

*Another Thought*, 2021

Edition of 3, 1 AP

Bronze

55 x 24 x 24 inches

Ryan Johnson

*Adolescent*, 2022

Epoxy, clay, metal

92 x 19 x 19 inches





Dana Schutz

*The Encounter*, 2022

Oil on canvas

108 x 140 inches



Dana Schutz

*Pointer*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches





Dana Schutz

*Trouble and Appearance*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches



Dana Schutz

*Museum Type*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches



Dana Schutz

*To Have a Head*, 2018

Edition of 20, 5 APs

Etching with aquatint

Paper: 43.25 x 30.625 inches

Framed: 44.875 x 32.1875 inches



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