



**JJ MANFORD**

Our House

Harper's Los Angeles  
Feb 18 - March 26, 2022

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8115 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046

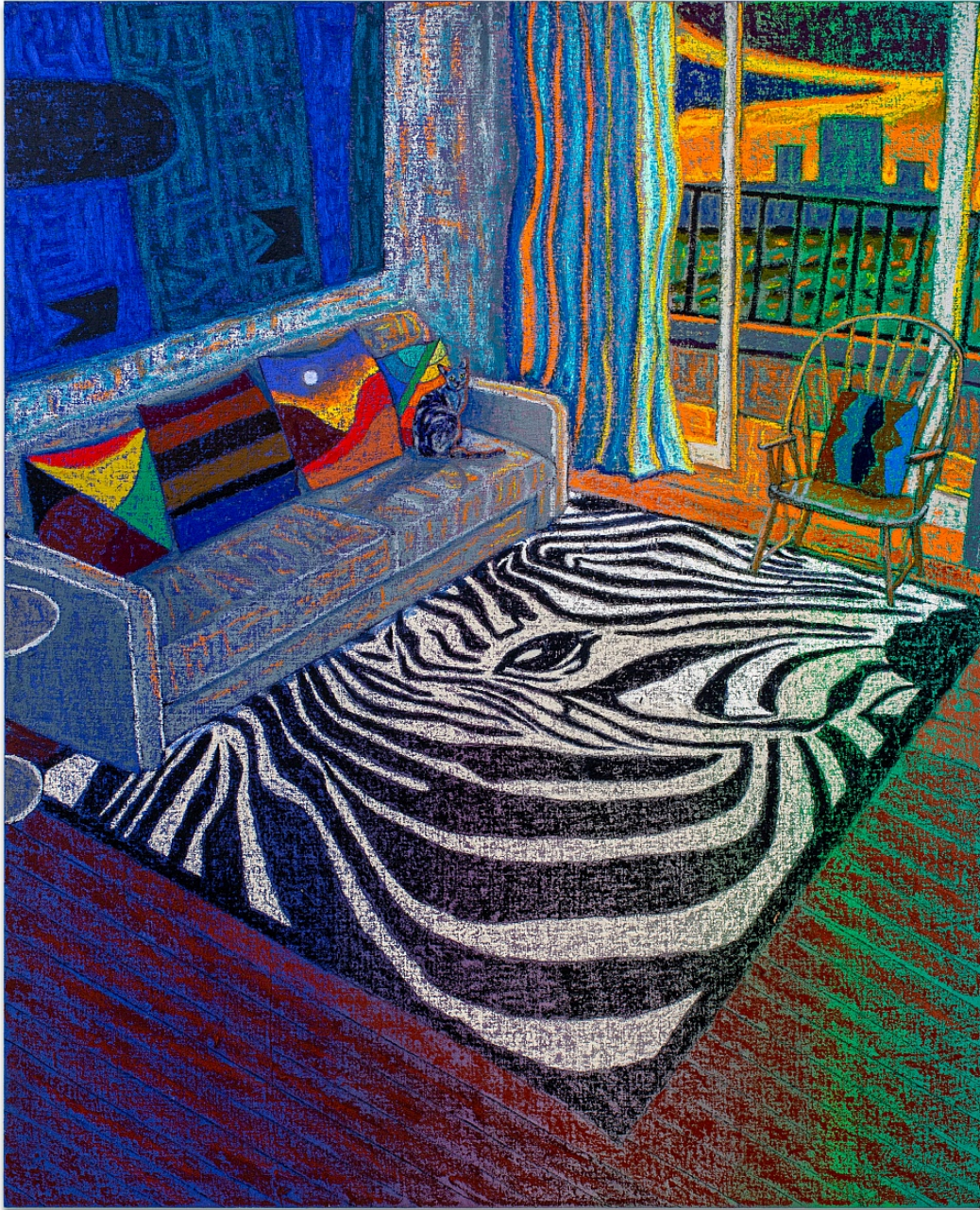
Tuesday – Saturday, 10am–6pm

Harper's is thrilled to announce *Our House*, the gallery's second solo exhibition with Brooklyn-based artist JJ Manford. The show will present a new series of work that continues Manford's practice of rendering vibrant domestic interiors with oil stick, pastel, and Flashe paint. Concurrent with Felix Art Fair, *Our House* opens on Friday, February 18, 6–8pm, at the gallery's Los Angeles location, with a reception attended by the artist.

Although the paintings on view feature a wide array of private interiors—city lofts, suburban homes, and rural cabins—there is nonetheless a common sensibility that permeates each piece. Manford depicts rooms with tidily arranged antique furniture and decorated objects in vivid colors. Canonical and invented artworks populate the walls, and ornately patterned rugs line the hardwood floors; a Sonic the Hedgehog figurine rests atop a mid-century end table in *Interior with Sonic & JJ Manford Rug* while a ceramic Elvis lamp resides next to an abstract landscape painting in *E.M.'s Piano & Elvis Lamp*. In some instances, such as *Bedroom with A.R. Penck* and *Interior with Alfredo Volpi & Zebra Rug*, pet cats curl up on plush cushions or wrinkled bed sheets while the gentle glow of twilight peers through the windows, accentuating the serene atmosphere. Despite the lack of human presence, the scenes in *Our House* take on an inviting mood, as if the illustrated spaces were personalized for the viewer's own virtual habitation. Here, Manford's audience is essentially his guest.

In contrast to the quasi-surreal motifs Manford presented in his first exhibition with the gallery, *View From Gowanus*, the work in this recent series is more straightforward and deadpan. Primarily painting on large linen and burlap supports—many at or near bodily scale—Manford accurately portrays linear perspective to play into the illusory sense that his pictures could be physically entered. Yet, his imagery continues to retain a dreamlike quality through highly saturated palettes, exaggerating the intensity of color relationships experienced in the empirical world. As Manford remarks on his technique, “I have found that suspending aggregated dashes of pigment atop shifting grounds of color enlivens the surface of the painting in a way that mimics the non-static and approximate nature of light.” Through his chromatically charged arrangements, which pulse and glow from within, Manford creates a satisfying tension between his tranquil scenes and dynamic compositions. The domestic interiors in *Our House* bring to life the snapshot-like nature of nostalgia and memory.

**JJ Manford** (b. 1983, Boston, MA) received a BFA from Cornell University in 2006, a post-Baccalaureate certificate from School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2009, and an MFA from Hunter College in 2013. Most recently, his work has been featured in solo presentations at Harper's, East Hampton (2021); Derek Eller Gallery, New York (2021 and 2019); and John Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY (2016 and 2012). A catalog, *Greenport Magic*, accompanied an exhibition of the same title at Arts + Leisure Gallery, New York, in 2017. Manford has participated in group exhibitions at Harper's, Los Angeles (2021); The Pit, Palm Springs (2021); 1969 Gallery, New York (2020); Alexander Berggruen, New York (2020); and Freight + Volume, New York (2018 and 2015), among other venues. Reviews of his work have appeared in numerous publications including *New Yorker*, *Artnet News*, and *White Hot Magazine*. Manford currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY where he is a co-founder of the artist collective Underdonk.



JJ Manford  
*Interior with Alfredo Volpi & Zebra Rug*  
2021  
Oil stick, oil pastel, and Flashe on burlap over canvas  
84h x 68w in





JJ Manford  
*Corbusier Inspired Interior with Peacock Vase*  
2021  
Oil stick, oil pastel, and Flashe on burlap over canvas  
84h x 68w in





JJ Manford  
*Interior with Bactrian Camel & Visionary Landscape Scroll*  
2021  
Oil stick, pastel, and Flashe on burlap over canvas  
84h x 68w in





JJ Manford  
*Interior with David Hockney Print & Bentwood Chair*  
2021  
Oil stick, pastel, and Flashe on linen  
72h x 60w in





JJ Manford  
*Interior with Bill Traylor & Etel Adnan*  
2021  
Oil stick, pastel, and Flashe on linen  
72h x 60w in





JJ Manford  
*Interior with Sonic & JJ Manford Rug*  
2021  
Oil stick, pastel, and Flashe on linen  
72h x 60w in





JJ Manford  
*E.M.'s Piano & Elvis Lamp*  
2021  
Oil stick, pastel, and Flashe on linen  
70h x 62w in





JJ Manford  
*Bedroom with A.R. Penck*  
2021  
Oil stick, pastel, and Flashe on linen  
70h x 62w in





JJ Manford  
*Alfredo Volpi-Inspired Tapestry in a Frank Lloyd Wright  
Interior*  
2021  
Oil stick, oil pastel, and Flashe on burlap over canvas  
68h x 84w in





JJ Manford  
*Upstate Interior with Mose Tolliver*  
2021  
Oil stick, pastel, and Flashe on burlap over canvas  
68h x 84w in





JJ Manford  
*NYC Interior with View of Manhattan Bridge*  
2022  
Oil stick, oil pastel, and Flashe on burlap over canvas  
60h x 50w in





JJ Manford  
*Sunset with Cassius Clay*  
2022  
Oil stick, oil pastel, and Flashe on linen  
46h x 41w in



## JJ MANFORD

b. 1983, Boston, MA

Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

## EDUCATION

- 2013 MFA, CUNY Hunter College, New York, NY  
2009 Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
2006 BFA, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

## SELECTED SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Our House*, Harper's, Los Angeles, CA  
2021 *JJ Manford & Michael Berryhill*, One River School, Allendale, NJ  
*Moon Salon*, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY  
*View from Gowanus*, Harper's, East Hampton, NY  
2019 *Fish Tank TV*, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY  
2017 *Greenport Magic*, Arts + Leisure, New York, NY  
*Liminal Grove*, One River School, Allendale and Englewood, NJ  
*NIGHT*, One River School, Westport, CT  
2016 *Wanderers and Wildflowers*, John Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY  
2014 *Through Ever Leaf*, Freight + Volume, New York, NY  
2013 *Of Other Places*, Sardine, Brooklyn, NY  
2012 *The Brink of Utterance*, John Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY  
2011 *Stillness is the Move*, Saffron Space, Brooklyn, NY  
2009 *Recent Paintings*, 76 Harley Street, London, UK  
2007 *Dissolving Lucian II/Points of my Compass*, Gershwin Gallery, New York, NY

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Felix Art Fair, Harper's booth, Los Angeles, CA  
2021 NADA Miami, Harper's booth, Miami, FL  
Art Basel Miami Beach, Derek Eller Gallery booth, Miami, FL  
*Spiritual Advisory: Part Deux*, Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Melrose*, Harper's, Los Angeles, CA  
*A Flower Show*, Gangway NPT, Newport, RI  
*La Banda*, Tappeto Volante, Brooklyn, NY  
*Oasis*, The Pit, Palm Springs, CA  
2020 *Interiors: hello from the living room*, 1969 Gallery, New York, NY  
*Quarters*, Alexander Berggruen, New York, NY  
*Group Exhibition*, Derek Eller Gallery (online)  
*Unraveling*, Hesse Flatow (online)  
2019 NADA Miami, Derek Eller Gallery booth, Miami, FL  
*The Mind is also a Landscape*, Public Land/Print Club LTD, Sacramento, CA  
*Under the Time of Lampshades*, Transmitter, Brooklyn, NY  
*Decade*, SFA Projects, New York, NY



- 2018 *7 Samurai*, Platform Project Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*Idols and Icons*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA  
*Summer of Love*, Freight + Volume, New York, NY  
*Gangs of New York*, organized by Essex Flowers, ADDS DONNA, Chicago, IL  
*Untitled Projects*, Crush Curatorial, Amagansett, NY  
*True North*, LabSpace, Hillsdale, NY
- 2017 *In Paper We Trust*, The Dot Project, London, UK  
*The Secret Life of Plants*, Freight + Volume, New York, NY
- 2016 *Lunacy*, Ortega y Gasset, Brooklyn, NY  
 Frieze New York, Canada booth, New York, NY  
*Jardin*, No. 4 Studio, Brooklyn, NY  
*Gazing Island*, COOP, Nashville, TN  
*Your Bad Self*, Arts + Leisure, New York, NY
- 2015 *Apples Turn to Water*, SPRING/BREAK Art Show, New York, NY  
*New Work City*, Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY  
*The Art of Compassion*, Freight + Volume, New York, NY
- 2014 *Family Style*, Pocket Utopia, New York, NY
- 2013 *C'est Brooklyn-Paper*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Strange Times*, Novella Gallery, New York, NY
- 2012 *Peaces on Earth*, Sardine, Brooklyn, NY  
*Brucennial 2012: Harderer. Betterer. Fasterer. Strongerer*, presented by  
 The Bruce High Quality Foundation and Vito Schnabel, New York, NY  
*The Whitney Houston Biennial*, Murdertown, Chicago, IL  
*Paparazzi*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 *Idiot's Delight*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Temporary Antumbra Zone*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Purple Nerple*, Beta Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*Espacio Entre Medio*, Chemi's Room, Santurce, PR
- 2010 *Half Invisible*, Beta Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*Painting Comes Alive!*, Art Jail, New York, NY
- 2009 *Cadaver Corpse*, Space 1026, Philadelphia, PA  
*Cadaver Corpse*, Golden Age, Chicago, IL

## SELECTED PRESS

- 2021 Neha Jambhekar, "Editors Picks: 14 Events for Your Art Calendar This Week...",  
*Artnet News*, November 2, 2021  
 Johanna Fateman, "JJ Manford," *New Yorker*, October 29, 2021  
 Christopher Alessandrini, "JJ Manford: Moon Salon," *TheGuide.Art*, October 14, 2021  
 Steven Biller, "Fresh Paint: The Pit gallery makes its Palm Springs debut with 'Oasis,'" *Palm Springs Life*, June 18, 2021
- 2020 Nicholas Cueva, "J.J. Manford: Unraveling at Hesse Flatow," *White Hot Magazine*,  
 July 17, 2020  
 "Art for the In Crowd: 8 Artworks Depicting the Great Indoors," *Artspace*, April 8, 2020  
 "JJ Manford at Derek Eller Gallery," *Art Viewer*, January 1, 2020
- 2019 Emily Burns, "Interview with JJ Manford," *Maake Magazine*, Issue 9, 2019  
 Liz Ainslie, "JJ Manford's domestic stages for acid daydreams," *Two Coats of Paint*,  
 November 26, 2019



- “There’s a Thriving Underground Barter Network Among Artists. Doug Aitken, Dread Scott, and 12 Others Tell Us About Their Most Memorable Trades,” *Artnet News*, April 10, 2019
- 2016 “The 20 Best Booths at Frieze New York,” *Artsy*, May 5, 2016
- 2015 Rob Colvin, “A Charming Reverence for Color: Artists Revisit Paul Klee,” *Hyperallergic*, October 28, 2015
- 2014 Pam Grossman, “Max Razdow and JJ Manford show,” *Phantasmaphile*, July 16, 2014
- 2012 Maria Calandra, “JJ Manford: Studio Visit,” *Pencil in the Studio*, December 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 *Greenport Magic* (New York, NY: Arts + Leisure, 2017)



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