

Ruins, Mass Nudity, and Indoor Vistas: A Refreshing Summer Show



Spencer Tunick, Desert Spirits 1 (Nevada), 2013. C-print mounted between plexi, 48 x 60 inches, Edition 1 of 6. Courtesy the artist

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A Weekend in the Country curated by Paul Laster

June 18 – August 7, 2015

Magnan Metz Gallery

By JAN CASTRO, JUL. 2015

MAGNANMETZ GALLERY

This visually engaging art employs strange points of view, stagings, and irony-laced versions of nature.

Curator Paul Laster features one to five works each by Jude Broughan, Ernesto Caivano, Anthony Goicolea, Ellen Harvey, Jason Middlebrook, Donna Moylan and Spencer Tunick.

Goicolea's art is full of surprises. *Salt Shed*, one of three stunning works, is an interior that telescopes toward and away from the viewer. The white landscape of salt piles inside a shed also looks like snowy hills indoors. The intricate images are painted and drawn on both sides of Mylar, and then mounted onto wood and varnished with a protective UV medium. *Artificial Support System VII* combines acrylic, ink, Mylar, board, and a sculpted "rock" base made of resin. The white plant on a dark background looks like a photo negative of a plant growing out of a rock.

Caivano's small ink drawing *Habitants* is a philosophical panorama while Moylan's three pieces meld abstraction and figuration with woody, floral notes. Harvey's three ruins/landscapes are filled with mystery; some missing parts are marked with blank white circles or X's. *Picturesque Circle Maze* juxtaposes an impossible landscape/perspective: a greenish earth maze with blue sky in its center and around its periphery. Harvey variously paints humorous commentaries on how art is perceived, such as these archeological spoofs. (Harvey's solo exhibition at the Barnes Foundation opens September 19 in Philadelphia – 887 oil paintings of the metalwork in the Barnes collection.)



Jan Garden Castro (www.janCastro.com) is a contributing editor for *Sculpture Magazine* (17 cover stories) and blogs at sculpture.org (<http://blog.sculpture.org/2015/07/08/uncovering-yoko-ono/#more-5940>). She has curated exhibitions for IAA (International Arts & Artists), Jane V. Zimmerli Museum, JAMA (Japan Association of Art Museums), and ICPNA (Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano – Lima). Her books include *The Art & Life of Georgia O'Keeffe*, *Sonia Delaunay: La Moderne*, and *The Last Frontier*. Her work has appeared in *The Nation*, *American Poetry Review*, and *American Book Review*.