

JASON VASS

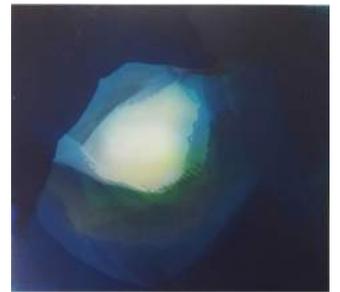
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANNOUNCES

NANCY EVANS: *TREE. LINGAM. VOID.*
CURATED BY MICHAEL DUNCAN

JUNE 18–JULY 24, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016 6–9 PM
JASON VASS 1452 E. SIXTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90021



(LOS ANGELES) - Jason Vass is pleased to present *Tree. Lingam. Void*, a solo exhibition of works by Los Angeles-based artist Nancy Evans curated by critic, curator, and writer Michael Duncan. An established artist and fixture of LA's contemporary art scene since the 90s, Evans has been producing experimental work across a variety of media for 40 years. Evans is fascinated by the aniconic symbols and universally shared archetypes that persist throughout the world's diverse religions and imaginaries. Drawn to the exploration of the primordial and elemental, Evans' varied body of work is historically and formally ambiguous, bordering at times on the shamanistic and ethnographic. This survey exhibition, showcasing the dynamic range of her work from the past 15 years, is the artist's first major solo project since 2012.

Inspired by her world travels, most notably her time spent in India, Evans is drawn to the symbology of myth and ritual in spiritual practices and theology, and the persistence of its shared visual metaphors across cultures. Her formal and thematic vocabulary reflects a loose appropriation of Hindu concepts, which she explores materially as totemic abstractions or humanoid hybrids. The lingam, an abstracted cylindrical symbol for the Hindu deity Shiva, is a recurring visual motif in Evans' work, appearing as an abstract delineation of space and a symbol of origins in her paintings. Drawn to the Jungian idea of a collective cultural unconscious, she creates her forms intuitively with recourse to the concept of universal

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archetypes and "inherited potentials," creating a distinct, if unspecific, visual mythology in the process. Her sculptural works tend to return to figurative forms, whether human or animal, some inspired by Hindu deities, such as Shiva, Shakti, or Kali, and others by raw, amorphic, and at times phobic manifestations of the primal. Most well known for her sculptures in bronze and aqua resin, Evans also creates mixed-media works in painting, paper, and textiles.

Tree. Lingam. Void. will feature select pieces drawn from several bodies of work to reflect the breadth of Evans' prolific and experimental practice.

Strangely antediluvian though also contemporary, her sculptures embody archaic expressions of animal and human forms while her process-driven poured paintings return to ancient concepts such as the lingam to explore the origins of creation and the void. The exhibition will feature cast bronze and aqua resin sculptures; these labor intensive composites are assembled from molds the artist has taken of foraged organic materials, including bark, banana leaves, seed pods, flowers, and seaweed.

Also in the exhibition is a selection of paintings drawn from two bodies of work: *Trees* from 2011, poured acrylic works on linen in which Evans explores abstracted images of trees melting into inverted horizons, and *VOIDs* from 2014, a series of gestural, abstract works in which cloud-like formations allude to the creation and dispersal of matter.

Finally, *Tree. Lingam.Void.* will feature a selection of recent abstract works on textural handmade paper and an embellished hand sewed burlap panel installation hung from the gallery ceiling. The two-dimensional works on paper examine the lingam as an abstract motif, using an airbrushing technique to create diffuse applications of bright color that cling to the material recesses of the paper, while the burlap pieces provide a counterpoint to the more refined, harnessing the crude and elemental nature of the textile.

The exhibition will present a representative cross section of Nancy Evans' work from the past 15 years, showcasing her adaptable and inventive facility with materials. Though deliberately anachronistic, her works capture an ambiguous panhuman universality: our shared obsession with beginnings and ends.

ABOUT NANCY EVANS

Nancy Evans is a Los Angeles-based artist. A BFA graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Evans has been developing her experimental mixed-media practice for 40 years. Her work has been exhibited throughout California at the San Jose Museum of Art, Pasadena Armory for the Arts, Long Beach City College Gallery, Oceanside Museum of Art, Torrance Art Museum, Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis, and the Art Center College of Design, among many others.

ABOUT MICHAEL DUNCAN

Michael Duncan, a critic and independent curator, is a Corresponding Editor for Art in America. His writings have focused on maverick artists of the twentieth century, West Coast modernism, twentieth century figuration, and contemporary California art. His curatorial projects include surveys and

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recontextualizations of works by Pavel Tchelitchew, Sister Corita Kent, Kim MacConnel, Lorser Feitelson, Eugene Berman, Richard Pettibone, Alberto Burri, and Wallace Berman.

ABOUT JASON VASS

Situated in the burgeoning arts district neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles in a 2,700 square foot, space designed to accommodate diverse exhibitions and related programs, the gallery aims to create an exhibition program that offers a historical perspective through the lens of contemporary artists. The gallery is committed to cultivating emerging talent and supporting established artists from around the world. Exhibiting artists include: Luke Austin, Deborah Brown, Dan Callis, Mark Dutcher, Nancy Evans, Cynthia MacAdams and Douglas Tausik. The gallery manages the estate of Gene Vass.

Gallery founder Jason Vass is the son of Gene Vass, the youngest member of NYC's Cedar Tavern abstract expressionist group. His mother, Joan Vass, was a fashion designer and curator at MOMA where he spent much of his youth. His extraordinary parents influenced his eye and his passion for art. In the 1980's Vass was managing partner at contemporary art gallery Patrick Fox in NYC. After moving from New York to Los Angeles, Vass opened his first gallery on Santa Monica's Montana Avenue in 1992 where he developed a reputation as a well-known and internationally respected dealer of posters, prints and limited-edition museum quality fine art lithographs. He has since owned galleries in Santa Monica and Santa Fe. More info at jasonvass.com

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11am–6pm and Sunday 12pm–4pm

Image Credits Left to Right: Nancy Evans, *Volcano Tree*, 2011, acrylic on linen, 42" x 36." Nancy Evans, *FooDog*, 2015, painted aqua resin, 15" x 15" x 13," photographed by Nina Salerno. Nancy Evans, *Lei*, 2002-2004, tie-dyed burlap with plexiglass, dimensions variable. Nancy Evans, *Blue Void*, 2014, acrylic on canvas, 40" x 60."

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