

June/July 2017

BLOUIN modernpainters

ART / ARCHITECTURE / DESIGN / PERFORMANCE / FILM

JUNE/JULY 2017

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ROOMS OF THEIR OWN

THIS SUMMER, PROMINENT ART INSTITUTIONS
AROUND THE WORLD ARE TRADING IN
PICTURES FOR THOUSANDS OF WORDS

BY RACHEL CORBETT

Writers throughout history have complained of painter envy. Frank O'Hara famously wrote in one poem, "I think I'd rather be / a painter, but I am not." As a teenager, Henry James tried to take up painting like so many of his artist friends, only to give it up when he realized that his talents lay

elsewhere. And the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, admiring the handicraft of his mentor Rodin, once wondered where to find the "tool of my art, the hammer, my hammer?" Now, a number of art museums and galleries are closing this gap with exhibitions dedicated exclusively to writers. Here are a few highlights coming up this summer.



Michel Houellebecq, "French Bashing"

June 2-August 4
Venus Over Manhattan, New York

ALREADY A CELEBRITY in France and abroad for his provocative novels on sex, Islam, and politics, Houellebecq added to his renown last year with his debut as a photographer at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris. Houellebecq will now reprise two galleries from that show at Venus, New York, which will include his spot-lit photographs of desolate landscapes, a musical soundtrack by French composer Raphaël Saïkier, and a floor covered with placemats advertising popular tourist destinations around the world.

Michel Houellebecq
Mission #001, 2015
Pigment print on
Baryta paper mounted
on aluminum,
23½ x 34½ in.

"Ugo Rondinone: I ♥ John Giorno"

June 21-August (dates vary)

Swiss Institute, White Columns, The Kitchen, Artists Space, New Museum, High Line Art, Red Bull Arts, the Rubin Museum, Hunter College, and various other locations, New York

SWISS ARTIST UGO RONDINONE'S love letter of an exhibition to his partner of 20 years, the poet and artist John Giorno, travels to New York after being previously shown at Paris's Palais de Tokyo in 2015. "I ♥ John Giorno" includes works by some of the many luminaries who have depicted Giorno over the years, such as Andy Warhol, Elizabeth Peyton, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and Pierre Huyghe. A former beat poet who once shared a studio with William Burroughs, Giorno's own poetry and text paintings, which feature sayings such as "God is Man Made" and "Life is a Killer," will be presented alongside ephemera from a long, charmed life.

Installation
view of John
Giorno Archive
by Ugo
Rondinone,
2013-present.

