

Miami, FL, April 12, 2016 - The Diana Lowenstein Gallery is pleased to present Julien Gardair's "Painting Cutouts", curated by Ombretta Agró Andruff, the first solo exhibition of the artist in Miami.

An opening reception will take place on **Friday April 15th, 6:00-9:30PM**. The exhibition will be on view through May 28th, 2016.



Untitled #4 and #3, 2016, Beeswax and pigments on 100% cotton rag paper (ph neutral)

As the title suggests, the Painting-Cutout series combine, for the first time, two major practices of my work—painting and cutting. I begin by painting heavy cotton rag papers on both sides with diverse playful experimentations: brushing, stenciling, masking, stamping, spraying, projecting, soaking, monotyping, dripping... Each action or procedure brings with it its own aspects of meaning, genre, and lineage. From the most direct techniques to the most remote ones, all reveal a strong physical presence rich in details. The results of this creative play vary from monochromatic to prismatic, loosely gestural to photographic, and from abstract to figurative.

Beginning the next phase I then select, from the ever growing stack of painted papers, four sheets which I fold in half and bind together in a book like form. Once bound, I cut the first painting freehand with a sharp blade, beginning at the outside edge and ending at the center fold. Nothing is removed; the cut reveals and obstructs parts of the image at the same time, still maintaining the symmetry of the book. Page after page I follow a similar process, the composition of the painting/book is constructed in this specific space between the layers. It is a process where my own gaze is obstructed by the pages and the overlapping content, so that only so much can be planned and only so much will be discovered at any given moment.

The production of these objects creates no waste and requires enacting a sort of memory game to recall what it is hidden in between and underneath as I act upon the visible surfaces. In the final presentation the “book” is opened to the last page and hung horizontally; whereupon the piece reveals itself as an intricate layered relief of 7 paintings, once antagonistic, now reconciled into one form.

Julien Gardair was born in France in 1976, he lives and works in New York City. He works in a variety of media from painting to large-scale site-specific installations. His work has been shown frequently in galleries and museums since 1996 in France, Belgium, and the US. Amongst his solo and group shows: Martos Gallery, NYC; The Invisible Dog, Brooklyn, NY; Eden Rock gallery, St Barth; Galleries Nationales des Gobelins, Paris and Beauvais, France; Stevenson Union Gallery, South Oregon University, Ashland, OR; Theresa Bastion, Timisoara, Romania.