

Alexis Rockman: Drawings from Life of Pi
September 27–November 3, 2013

Drawing Room, The Lab
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 26, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center
212 219 2166 x119 | mgross@drawingcenter.org

July 18, 2013



Alexis Rockman, *Study for Tiger Vision* (22 TV 1 9/20/11), 2011, Gouache on black paper, 9 x 12 inches (22.9 x 30.5 cm), Courtesy of the artist.

New York – The Drawing Center will present *Alexis Rockman: Drawings from Life of Pi* from September 27 to November 3, 2013, in the Drawing Room and The Lab. Alexis Rockman’s watercolor drawings were the first stage in the development of the fantastical, imaginary world of *Life of Pi*, the 2012 Academy Award-winning feature film directed by Ang Lee. Lee sought out Rockman’s vision as an artist with a specific commitment to hand drawing to bring a human scale to the project. Though most artistic contributions to cinema are dependent on photo-realism or cartoon-like illustration, Rockman’s images are fluid, intimate, and dynamic in a way that only drawing can capture. The exhibition will provide The Drawing Center with a unique opportunity to explore the relationship between visual art—specifically drawing—and commercial filmmaking. Co-curated by Brett Littman, Executive Director and Nova Benway, Curatorial Assistant.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alexis Rockman’s canvases present a darkly surreal vision of the collision between human civilization and the natural world. His art draws from a diverse range of inspirations, including old master painting, science fiction, and above all, natural history. In researching his paintings, Rockman has undertaken extended expeditions into the Amazon Basin, Tasmania, Madagascar, South Africa, and Antarctica. He has worked not only with other artists, but with leading scientists, including paleontologist Peter Ward on the book *Future Evolution*; famed naturalist Stephen Jay Gould, who contributed to the 2004 monograph *Alexis Rockman*; and NASA climatologist James Hanson. This last collaboration resulted in the 8 x 24 foot mural *Manifest Destiny*, a post-apocalyptic vision of a city submerged as a possible consequence of climate change, commissioned by the Brooklyn Museum.

Rockman's work has been featured in *Wired*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and is in the collections of museums such as LACMA, the Guggenheim, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. He was recently the subject of a major 2010–11 retrospective at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, entitled *Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow*, which traveled to The Wexner Center for the Arts. His upcoming show at Sperone Westwater Gallery will be presented in September 2013. This exhibition of new paintings and watercolors entitled "Rubicon" will feature two epic paintings thematically focused on New York City.

PUBLIC PROGRAM

Thursday, October 17 at 6:30pm

The Animal Vision: A Conversation with Alexis Rockman and Vinciane Despret

Alexis Rockman will speak with Vinciane Despret, a philosopher who specializes in animal study. In her latest book, Despret reveals our preconceived notions about what animals do, want, and even "think." Rockman and Despret will discuss their mutual attempts to think with animals, and to pay homage to their visions of the world. Moderated by Cary Wolfe, writer and professor of English, Rice University. This event is presented as part of "Walls and Bridges," a 10-day French-American arts and ideas festival curated by the [Villa Gillet](#), a French cultural institute interested in thought in all its expressions, bringing together thinkers and artists from all over the world.

PUBLICATION

To accompany *Alexis Rockman: Drawings from Life of Pi*, The Drawing Center will produce an edition in the *Drawing Papers* series that will include an interview with Rockman and Jean Castelli, an associate producer of the film, and images of the exhibited works.

CREDITS

Alexis Rockman: Drawings from Life of Pi is made possible by an anonymous donor. Additional support is provided by Richard Edwards, Baldwin Gallery, Aspen and James Salomon.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](#)

TWITTER: [twitter.com/drawingcenter](#)

TUMBLR: [the-drawing-center.tumblr.com](#)

PINTEREST: [pinterest.com/drawingcenter/](#)

AT THE DRAWING CENTER

<i>Ken Price: Slow and Steady Wins the Race</i>	Through August 18, 2013
<i>Terry Smith: Document</i>	Through August 18, 2013
<i>Susan Hefuna and Luca Veggetti</i>	September 16–20, 2013
<i>Sean Scully: Change and Horizontals</i>	September 27–November 3, 2013
<i>Alexis Rockman: Drawings from Life of Pi</i>	September 27–November 3, 2013
<i>Drawing Time, Reading Time</i>	November 22, 2013–January 12, 2014
<i>Dickinson/Walser: Scattered Ways</i>	November 22, 2013–January 12, 2014
<i>William Engelen</i>	November 22, 2013–January 12, 2014
<i>Ferran Adrià: Notes on Creativity</i>	January 25–February 28, 2014
<i>Deborah Grant: Christ You Know It Ain't Easy!!</i>	January 25–February 28, 2014
<i>Rashaad Newsome: FIVE (The Drawing Center)</i>	March 6–11, 2014
<i>Andrea Bowers and Suzanne Lacy (title TBD)</i>	March 15–26, 2014

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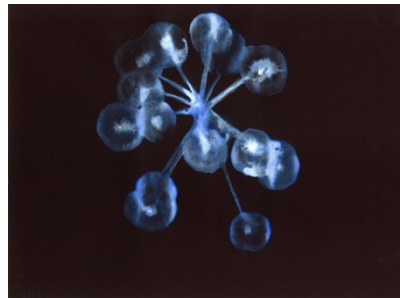
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Images Available for Reproduction

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Alexis Rockman, *Study for Tiger Vision*, 2011. Gouache on black paper, 9 x 12 inches (23.9 x 30.5 cm).
Courtesy of the artist.



Alexis Rockman, *Study for Tiger Vision* (7 TV), 2011. Gouache on black paper, 9 x 12 inches (23.9 x 30.5 cm)
Courtesy of the artist.



Alexis Rockman, *Study for Island* (Island – Root Tip and Trunk), 2009. Watercolor on paper, 8.5 x 12 inches (21.6 x 30.5 cm).
Courtesy of the artist.



Alexis Rockman, *Study for Island* (Island), 2009. Watercolor and ink on paper, 8.5 x 12 inches (21.6 x 30.5 cm).
Courtesy of the artist.



Alexis Rockman, *Study for French Chef* (Squid Whale Detail), 2010. Prismacolor Pencil on Paper, 8 1/2 x 11 inches (21.6 x 27.9 cm).
Courtesy of the artist.



Alexis Rockman, *Study for Tiger Vision*, 2011. Gouache on black paper, 9 x 12 inches (22.9 x 30.5 cm).
Courtesy of the artist.