



Jay Stern
Slow Opening

December 13, 2024 –
January 25, 2025

NOON Projects
508 + 951 Chung King Road
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday
Noon–6pm
And by Appointment

+ 1 971 341 6648
noon-projects.com
info@noon-projects.com

NOON

NOON Projects Presents

Jay Stern *Slow Opening*

December 13, 2024 –
January 25, 2025

Opening Reception:
December 13, 2024
6–9 PM

951 Chung King Road
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Artist talk with
Sayantan Mukhopadhyay
January 16, 2024

NOON Projects is honored to present *Slow Opening* by Jay Stern, the artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery. This new body of work unveils a series of expressive, layered oil paintings that explore the intricate relationship between memory, time, and transformation. *Slow Opening* invites viewers into a space that feels both familiar and distant, capturing ephemeral moments of transition and quiet introspection. Much like memory, Stern assembles his compositions from fragmented elements into expansive forms, employing directional light to subtly evoke the emotion arising from the fleeting nature of information over time. The exhibition title reflects Stern's fascination with the hidden layers of activity within what is considered *still*, and the slow, unfolding blooms that emerge from looking.

Through rapid brushwork and built layering, Stern's paintings balance domestic intimacy with the rawness of nature. He seeks to capture these instants just before the relentless tide of life carries them from the present into the past. Stern's work meditates on the generosity of time, a concept symbolized through imagery of flowers and landscapes, and echoed in the words of curator Hilton Als: "Time can be very cruel, but it can also be very generous to artists who are paying attention." The works urge viewers to appreciate the quiet beauty and respect the active nuances of daily life often overlooked, while emphasizing the majesty and conflict of each passing moment and encouraging reflection on how our identities are shaped by both presence and absence.

Since moving to Maine in 2021, Stern has been inspired by the region's landscapes and rich artistic history, while maintaining a conscious distance from idealized reverence or sentimental representation. Interested in presenting nature in a pure way, works like *Roofline Sunset*, *Kezar Lake* and *Desire Destination* find Stern making a deeper connection between man-made objects that often inform nature's fluid sensibilities. This evolving queer perspective fosters a unique form of voyeurism that goes beyond the ordinary, shedding light on and celebrating the aspects of his surroundings that Stern finds most captivating. *Slow Opening* reflects Stern's belief that memory, much like his paintings, is not a fixed point but a living, evolving entity—always in the process of becoming, reshaped by time, perception, and the quiet moments of transformation.

NOON Projects is a gallery in Chinatown, Los Angeles. Our program showcases artists who work from the heart, with a focus on queerness, the divine, the natural world, craft, and social practices. We host an ongoing program of dinners, concerts, meditation groups, and community happenings.

We aim to create a welcoming space for artists and the community to connect and flourish. Please come by and see us – you are very welcome here.

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Biography Jay Stern



Jay Stern (b. 1991, Columbus, OH) received a BFA in Painting from the University of Cincinnati and an MFA in Arts Leadership from Seattle University. This year Stern will present two solo exhibitions in Portland, Maine and Los Angeles, California and is included in “As We Are,” a group exhibition at the Portland Museum of Art. His solo exhibition “Awning” at Grant Wahlquist Gallery was reviewed by the *Portland Press Herald*, *Two Coats of Paint* and named by *Boston Art Review* as a “show to see” last Summer. This Winter, he attended the James Castle House Residency in Boise, Idaho and was a resident at Hewnoaks in Lovell, Maine this Summer. Stern was awarded a grant through the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation for 2024 and was named one of “10 Emerging New England Artists” by *Art New England*.

Previous solo and group exhibitions include Grant Wahlquist Gallery, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, NOON Projects, Portland Museum of Art, Turley Gallery, Caldbeck Gallery, Sears Peyton Gallery, Specialist, Studio e, Able Baker Contemporary, and Koplín Del Rio. Stern’s work has been featured in publications such as *Two Coats of Paint*, *Booooooom*, *Decor Maine*, *Art New England*, *Art Maze* and *Aeqai*. His work is currently on view in the public collection of the US Bank Center in Seattle and the James Castle Collection of the City of Boise, Idaho. Stern lives and works in Midcoast Maine.







Jay Stern
Double Iris, 2024
Oil on Canvas
45 x 50 x 1 1/2 in. | 114.3 x 127 x 3.8 cm









Jay Stern
Desire Destination, 2024
Oil on Canvas
48 x 48 x 1 3/4 in. | 121.9 x 121.9 x 4.4 cm









Jay Stern
Summer Symphony, 2024
Oil on Canvas
45 x 40 x 1 3/4 in. | 114.3 x 101.6 x 4.4 cm









Jay Stern
Dinner at Michael's (Fork and Plate), 2024
Oil on Panel
19 x 29 1/2 x 1 3/4 in. | 48.3 x 74.9 x 4.4 cm





Jay Stern
Bay View Street, Camden, Maine, 2024
Oil on Panel
16 x 20 in. | 40.6 x 50.8 cm





Jay Stern
Roofline Sunset, Kezar Lake, 2024
Oil on Panel
19 x 29 1/2 x 1 3/4 in. | 48.3 x 74.9 x 4.4 cm





Jay Stern
A Tacet End, 2024
Oil on Panel
24 x 20 x 1 3/4 in. | 61 x 50.8 x 4.4 cm





Jay Stern
Laundry Day #15 (Tye-Dye), 2024
Oil on Panel
24 x 20 x 1 3/4 in. | 61 x 61 x 4.4 cm





Jay Stern
Laundry Day #16, 2024
Oil on Panel
24 x 20 x 1 3/4 in. | 61 x 61 x 4.4 cm





Jay Stern
Alpine Hut, Lovell, Maine, 2024
Oil on Panel
9 x 12 in. | 22.9 x 30.5 cm



Jay Stern
Lovell Mountains, 2024
Pencil and Charcoal on Cardboard (Framed)
8 x 6 1/2 in. | 20.3 x 16.5 cm



Jay Stern
Pool (Fire Island), 2024
Pencil and Charcoal on Cardboard (Framed)
8 x 6 1/2 in. | 20.3 x 16.5 cm



Jay Stern
Nestled (Fire Island), 2024
Pencil and Colored Pencil on Paper (Framed)
5 3/4 x 8 in. | 14.6 x 20.3 cm

CV Jay Stern

Born 1991, Columbus, Ohio
Lives and works in Midcoast, Maine

Education

2015 MFA, Seattle University, Seattle, WA
2013 BFA, University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, Cincinnati, OH

Solo & Two-Person Exhibitions

2025 (Upcoming) Miami, FL
2024 *Slow Opening*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Awning, Grant Wahlquist Gallery, Portland, ME
2023 *Placing*, Turley Gallery, Hudson, NY
2022 *Middle Bay*, NOON Projects, Los Angeles, CA
2020 *I Remember Feeling Far*, Specialist Gallery, Seattle, WA

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 *As We Are*, curated by Sayantan Mukhopadhyay Portland Art Museum, Portland, ME
2023 *Home*, Caldbeck Gallery, Rockland, ME
2022 *Interior*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME
The Container Garden, Sears Peyton Gallery, New York, NY
2021 *Parts of an Immense Whole: 9 Painters in conversation with the work of Joseph A. Fiore*, Portland, ME
In Here, Studio E Gallery, Seattle, WA
2020 *Admirational Invitational*, Studio E Gallery, Seattle, WA
Deconstructed Art Fair, Specialist Gallery, Seattle, WA
2019 *Winter Salon*, Koplín Del Rio, Seattle, WA
2018 *Vatican*, Studio E Gallery, Seattle, WA
2013 *The Love Farm Collective*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
2012 *Recent Works by Jay Stern & Catherine Richards*, Parlour, Cincinnati, OH
Recent Works by Jay Stern & Chris Schimmel, Smartfish Studios, Cincinnati, OH

Awards & Residencies

2024 Hewnoaks Artist Residency, Lovell, ME
The Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant
James Castle House Resident, Boise, ID
2013 Director's Choice Award, Reed Gallery, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

Press & Publications

2024 Two Coats of Paint, *Jay Stern's psychological realism*, Contributed by Mark Wethli
Portland Press Herald, *Art review: On the surface, the new exhibit of painter Jay Stern's work is beautiful Maine pastorate*, Written by Jorge Arango
Boston Art Review, *What to See at New England Galleries this Summer*, Written by Karolina Hać
Art Verge, Jay Stern's New Paintings Capture Maine's Landscapes Through His Unique Queer Perspective, Interview and Writing by Yannis Kostarias
Art Maze Mag, Collective Volume Edition 34-37
Art New England, *10 Emerging New England Artists*, Interview by Maureen Canney
Paquette, Brian. *Outside In, Interiors Born from Nature*, Montlake

CV
Jay Stern (cont.)

- Project, pp. 82. Print
- 2023 Decor Maine, *Jay Stern: Perspectives on Place*, Interview by Suzette McAvoy. Maine
- 2022 Portland Press Herald, *Each of four fall shows worth a visit to Center for Maine Contemporary Art*. Written by Jorge S. Arango. Maine
Booooooom, *Artist Spotlight: Jay Stern*, Written by Anna Schneider, Vancouver, Canada
KCRW, *Jay Stern at NOON Projects*, Written by Lindsay Preston Zappas
- 2020 Aeqai, *I Remember Feeling Far*, Interview by Hannah Leow. Cincinnati, Ohio
The Stranger, *The Top 15 New Pioneer Square Art Shows*. Written by Jasmyne Keimig. Seattle, Washington
The Stranger, *Jay Stern: I Remember Feeling Far*. Written by Jasmyne Keimig. Seattle, Washington

Public Collections

James Castle House Collection, City of Boise, Idaho
U.S. Bank Center at Cedar Hall, Seattle, Washington

**Lectures &
Presentations**

- 2024 OUTMaine x Center for Contemporary Art's Virtual Artist Talk Mini Series