

THOMAS JACKSON

Emergent Behavior

July 21st — September 16th, 2017
Opening Reception Friday, July 21st, 6-8 pm

JOSEPH SZABO

Almost Grown

Artist Talk and Book Signing with Thomas Jackson
Saturday, July 22nd at 11 am

ON THE HORIZON:

A preview of our upcoming year of programming

ATLANTA. Jackson Fine Art is excited to celebrate the summer with exhibitions of work by **Thomas Jackson** and **Joseph Szabo**. For Jackson's ongoing series, *Emergent Behavior*, the artist builds large-scale kinetic sculptures from disposable commodities, installing these works in natural settings. The resulting still images function as a commentary on consumer culture and our estrangement from our environment, the juxtaposition of colorful, everyday objects — cheese balls, office supplies, plastic cups — with lush natural settings coaxing beauty from the mundane. **Joseph Szabo** established himself as a generation's most venerated documentarian of suburban, disaffected youth while teaching high school art classes in Long Island in the sixties and seventies. *Almost Grown*, an exhibition of work from that period through the early eighties, features a selection of the photographs Szabo began taking in the classroom before branching out to the school grounds, gaining the trust of his students and eventually photographing them at parties and on Jones Beach.

On the evening of **Friday, July 21st**, from **6-8 pm**, we'll hold our traditional opening reception with Thomas Jackson in attendance. On **Saturday, July 22nd at 11am**, Thomas Jackson will give an artist talk about this work and process, followed by an informal Q+A with the artist.



THOMAS JACKSON
Glowsticks No. 1, Greenport, New York, 2012



THOMAS JACKSON
Cups No. 2, Saratoga, Wyoming, 2013

Passionate about photography since he was a teenager, **Thomas Jackson** spent his 20s and 30s pursuing a career in writing and editing, first in book publishing, and then at a New York lifestyle magazine. While at the magazine, a number of photobooks crossed his desk — among them Gregory Crewdson's *Beneath the Roses*, Richard Misrach's *On the Beach*, and Andrew Moore's *Russia* — and Jackson began to recognize the narrative potential of photography, eventually turning to it full time. For *Emergent Behavior*, Jackson's second series of fine art photography, he began by installing natural matter in urban environments, but turned to the inverse — man-made objects in nature. Of this reversal and its critical implications, Jackson says: "I am explicitly making fun of us humans for the embarrassingly vulgar crap with which we surround ourselves. And by doing do, I hope to illustrate the depth of our estrangement from the natural world. At the same time I'm keenly interested in the mutability of things. Wrenched from its usual context, a plastic cup or a cheeseball can take on new

meaning. Place it in a lush, organic environment, multiply it by a hundred or so and it can even become... beautiful."

Almost Grown, named for **Joseph Szabo's** first book (1978), includes works that remarkably evoke their time and place, providing a timeless and endlessly compelling look into the formative years of American youth. As Cornell Capa says in his foreward, "Szabo's camera is sharp, incisive, and young, matching his subjects. One can use many adjectives: revealing, tender, raucous, sexy, showy... in Szabo's hands, the camera is magically there, the light is always available, the moment is perceived, seen, and caught."



JOSEPH SZABO
Dawn in Her Room, 1985



JOSEPH SZABO
Marianne & Mary Kay, 1976

Also on display will be a preview of our upcoming year of programming, featuring photographs by **Erik Madigan Heck**, **Laurent Chéhère**, **Meghann Riepenhoff**, and **Tommy Nease**. These emerging young artists have distinct backgrounds, ranging from commercial fashion photography to forest fire fighting, but are all among the talents whose growing markets and developing bodies of work we're excited to watch.



ERIK MADIGAN HECK
The Absorbed Tradition, 2013



TOMMY NEASE
3 Top, 2014



LAURENT CHÉHÈRE
Harmony, 2012



MEGHANN RIEPENHOFF
Littoral Drift #553 (Bainbridge Island, WA 06.02.17, Two Waves, Poured Over Rocks), 2017

About Thomas Jackson

Thomas Jackson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. After earning a B.A. in History from the College of Wooster, he spent much of his career in New York as an editor and book reviewer for magazines. It was his particular interest in photography books that led him to pick up a camera, first shooting Garry Winogrand-inspired street scenes, then landscapes, and finally the installation work he does today. His work has been shown at The Center for Book Arts in New York, the Governors Island Art Fair, the Gallery at Eponymy in Brooklyn and Industria Superstudios in New York. Jackson was named one of the Critical Mass Top 50 in 2012, and won the "installation/still-life" category of PDN's The Curator award in 2013. He lives in San Francisco.

About Joseph Szabo

Joe Szabo is a teacher, photographer and author who began his photographic studies at Pratt Institute where he received an MFA degree in 1968. He taught photography at Malverne High School in Long Island from 1972 — 1999 and at the International Center of Photography in New York since 1978. Joseph Szabo has been photographing his teen-age students for the past twenty-five years and has perfectly captured the ambivalence of that time of life. In 1978, his book on adolescence *Almost Grown* was published by Harmony Books and acclaimed by the American Library Association and placed on its "Best Books of the Year" listing. In 1984, he received a Photography fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2003, Greybull Press published his second monograph entitled *Teenage*. His work has been exhibited at the Venice Biennial, the International Center of Photography, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Brooklyn Museum among others. Szabo's work is in the collection of many prestigious institutions including the Bibliotheque National in Paris, France, The George Eastman House Museum in Rochester, New York, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Contact

To arrange interviews with Thomas Jackson and Joseph Szabo, and to request high resolution images, please contact Coco Conroy: coco@jacksonfineart.com.

Jackson Fine Art is located at 3115 East Shadowlawn Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. For more information about Jackson Fine Art and our artists, visit jacksonfineart.com.