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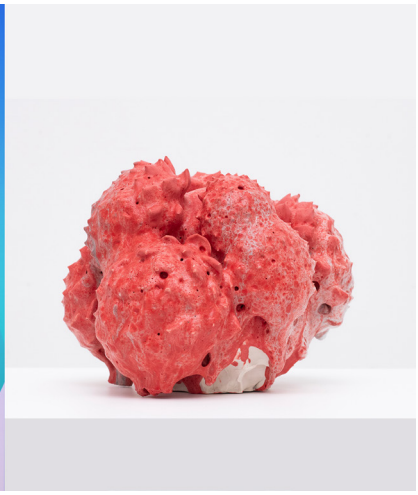
Dion Johnson *and* Matt Wedel



Dion Johnson, detail of *Pendulum (blue-red)*, 2024, acrylic on three canvases, 60 x 120 in. (Inv# DiJ24-001)



Matt Wedel, *Flower Tree*, 2025, stoneware 10 x 12 1⁄2 x 11 in. (Inv# MW25-030)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pop-Up Exhibition Dates

8 December - 18 December 2026

Opening Reception

Tuesday, December 8th from 6 - 8 pm

Gallery Hours

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Validated parking

Press Inquiries

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L.A. LOUVER

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Venice, CA (November 20, 2026) **L.A. Louver** is pleased to present a pop-up exhibition featuring artwork by **Matt Wedel** and **Dion Johnson**. The installation includes a colorful selection of new and recent ceramic sculpture by Wedel, and a vibrant series of paintings by Johnson. The exhibition will be on view to the public **December 8 - 18**, with a reception for the artists on **Tuesday, December 8, 6-8 pm.**

Exhibiting together for the first time in a two-person show, Matt Wedel and Dion Johnson's boundary-pushing practices are both intrinsically tethered to the artists' personal responses to the natural and physical worlds. As each artist mines their own lived experiences, harvesting memories and moments through the mediums of clay and paint, they form vivid, works of art that make sense of and challenge the rhythms of life.

These differentiated, though kindred practices, are uniquely kaleidoscopic in nature, bringing forth a mirage of color, histories, and extensional themes that shift in tone and understanding at every turn. The artists' ethereal use of color also introduces this harmonic, playful visual dialogue into the experience, further mirroring their grounded, yet imaginative sense of selves within. Between the lines and shadows of each painting and sculpture, intense, yet poetic contrasting elements push the conventions of scale and color to form new and forgotten thoughts, experiences, and ideas. Within these dualities, the artworks showcase the artists' raw and courageous explorations of time and memory that are beautifully honest and naturally captivating.

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In this presentation, **Matt Wedel** exhibits twenty new and recently made sculptures from his celebrated *Flower Tree* series. The prismatic curation of rugged, botanical sculptures made in stoneware and porcelain gracefully captures Wedel's heightened interest and exploration of memory, time, and the natural world. Taking influence from living ecosystems and the evolution of our physical world, Wedel manipulates and excavates ideas through earthen clay, delicately blurring the lines between representation and abstraction.

"I am in love with the labor of making. It is exploration through form and the constant search for clarity about the world," says Wedel. Bold, blossoming flowers break from a weighty stone-like center and are coated in a thick, marble-y glaze, which is often perforated, bubbling above the petals.

Wedel's sculptures are gestural, static, fluid, and stationary all at once, constantly evolving at every take. Sections of the works are often left unglazed, revealing minute glimpses of the raw clay underneath. And some sculptures display thick drippings of ghostly glaze like frozen raindrops off the edge of petals. These rich, pastel-hued works exude an instinctual essence and vulnerability that can only be traced back to the artist's hand.



Matt Wedel
Flower Tree, 2024
stoneware
16 1/2 x 15 1/2 x 15 in.
(41.9 x 39.4 x 38.1 cm)
signed on bottom
(Inv# MW26-010)

The seven large-scale paintings presented by **Dion Johnson** directly and indirectly capture the artist's personal transient experiences with light, sound, and color, like the fleeting moments of a sunrise escaping a mountain or the passing of a friend's smile on a swing set. As Johnson developed each painting, he grasped tightly to those memories that bring him joy, translating those visceral moments through color, tone, and shape onto the canvas. Sweeping gradients overlap illuminating color palettes with hard and soft angles that amplify each painting's atmospheric essence, introducing a unique, magnetic energy to the aesthetic narrative. The artist also pulled inspiration from the melodies of music or the composition and hues from iconic paintings, further enriching the overall emotive experience.



Dion Johnson
Slipstream (blue), 2025
acrylic on two canvases
80 x 60 in. (203.2 x 152.4 cm)
(Inv# DiJ25-007)

Johnson's ability to bring harmonic motion and kinetic energy into a material space is fully realized within these new works, all of which were completed in the last three years. Through the careful variation and placement of tone, line, and hue, color becomes energy, offering this sense of momentum within the works that brings a viewer on an immersive visual journey. Gradients of poppy red fold into layers of midnight blue, while orange peachy hues cascade into shades of rose-y daylight.

As one sits with the work, the paintings transform into these moody, romantic reflections of time. And as the colors weave wildly in and out of the canvas, the paintings remain calm, rhapsodic, and confident.

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About Dion Johnson
Born in Bellaire, Ohio, Los Angeles-based artist Johnson attended Yale Norfolk Summer School of Music and Art, received his BFA from The Ohio State University and his MFA from Claremont Graduate University. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA; Creative Artists Agency, Los Angeles, CA; Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH, among others. Johnson teaches at Otis College of Art Design and works from his studio in Los Angeles, California.



Dion Johnson in his studio

About Matt Wedel
Born in Palisade, Colorado, Wedel earned his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his MFA from California State University, Long Beach, studying under Tony Marsh and Kristen Morgin. Wedel's artwork has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States and internationally, and resides in the collections of Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH; Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA; Long Beach Museum of Art, CA; Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, HI; Clay Museum of Ceramic Art, Middelfart, Denmark; and Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada. In addition to his studio practice, Wedel has been an educator, holding faculty positions at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Rhode Island School of Design, and the University of Colorado, Boulder. Wedel maintains his practice in Athens, Ohio, on a rural farm that he shares his family.



Matt Wedel in his studio

About L.A. Louver
L.A. Louver was founded in 1975 by Peter and Elizabeth Goulds with a commitment to establishing contemporary artists in Southern California within an international context, and introducing global artists to a Los Angeles audience. For 51 years, the gallery has represented and promoted leading artists through institutional and private acquisitions, educational programming, publication and media projects, and providing research and engagement opportunities for curators, scholars and students.

In Fall 2025, the gallery announced the conclusion of its ongoing public exhibition program and its shift to a new model that embraces private art dealing, pop-up exhibitions, artist support and projects, and consulting.

The gallery also announced the donation of the L.A. Louver Archive & Library to The Huntington in San Marino, CA. The gallery's collections comprise more than 50 years of materials and objects that document the gallery's operations, correspondence, and artist records, while also charting the wider narrative of how L.A. Louver contributed to Southern California's ascension among the leading post-war and contemporary art centers in the world. The transfer of the gallery's collections to The Huntington will take place in 2029.