

LASM EXHIBITION DESCRIPTIONS 2012

galleries

Main art

Note that dates and exhibitions are subject to change. February 2012 ECW



Digital Paintings by John F. Simon Jr. June 30 – September 23

Replacing the canvas with the computer screen, John F. Simon Jr., a native of Louisiana, has been at the forefront of new media internationally since the 1990s. Having written his own software for the past 20 years, he is fluent in the use of the computer, manipulating his tool's potential in imaginative and innovative ways to create visual imagery that is perpetually in motion yet non-repetitive.

Simon begins by drawing. After carefully observing his own intuitive markings, he interprets them using the unique properties of digital media to create artworks in such diverse mediums as software, laser engraved plastic, pen plotter drawings, wood, paint, and inlaid plastic laminate. While Simon's earlier time-based paintings display software compositions on modestly sized laptop LCD screens, framed in acrylic plastic, his later works use larger LCD screens built into elaborate wood and Formica cabinets. Other bas-relief wood artworks are carved and engraved by computer controlled routers, adding another dimension to the translation of his drawings from the digital to the physical. In much of his work, Simon plays the regularity of computer control against the randomness of physical materials.

Organized by LASM, the selection on view includes a range of Simon's work, including drawings that elaborate upon his process, digital panel pieces, projections, a floor piece, and cabinet works, some weighing more than 100 lbs. To aid visitors toward a better understanding of Simon's work, a video shows the artist in action while discussing his unique art-making process.

John F. Simon lives and works in New York. Born in Shreveport in 1963, he was brought up in Alexandria, Louisiana. He has an MFA degree from the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, New York, and a Masters degree in earth and planetary sciences from Washington University in St. Louis. He also holds two Bachelor's degrees from Brown University, one in fine art and the other in geology. Exhibited internationally, his work is found in prominent museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Collezione Maramotti in Reggio Emilia, Italy.



From top: *Crown*, 2007, software, LCD screen, Formica, acrylic plastic, gouache on paper and lacquered wood, 48 x 48 x 14.5 in.;

Window, 2001, software, Macintosh G3 PowerBook, and acrylic, 19 x 16 x 3 in. Both courtesy of the artist and Gering & López Gallery, New York.