

## MACAULAY & CO. FINE ART

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### **JONAH SAMSON**

#### ***DREAM DISTORTION***

April 2 - May 2, 2015

Macaulay & Co Fine Art is thrilled to present a solo exhibition with Cape Breton Island based artist Jonah Samson. Dream Distortion is Jonah's first exhibition with the gallery.

Dream Distortion presents a dreamscape that oscillates between an intangible memory and a looming fear by exploring the uncanny mysteries, tensions, and darkly humorous moments that blur the line between fiction and reality.

Influenced by Absurdist Theatre, the exhibition wholly embodies the act of hunting and gathering, and is born from a vast knowledge of photographic history and an intense love of nature. With a keen eye for the peculiar, the artist mined countless vintage photographs on EBay for his personal collection, and transformed them using historical photographic practices and natural dyes made from the plants growing on his property on Cape Breton Island. The works embrace that alchemy of nature, understood by the first practitioners like William Henry Fox Talbot. Salt from the Atlantic Ocean combine with sumac, lavender, maple leaves and photosensitive chemicals to create dreamlike images when exposed to the sun.

The effect is an exploration of photographic history, interwoven with the conflicting peace and anxiety that comes from living in a remote location.

Jonah Samson is a self-taught artist who has exhibited nationally and internationally. His exhibition Another Happy Day at Presentation House in 2013 was listed as one of the top 10 shows that season by Canadian Art magazine, and the accompanying publication was listed as one of the top releases at the New York Art Book Fair by The New Yorker magazine. Other recent exhibitions include Otherworldly at the Musée Eugène Leroy, France and the Museum of Arts and Design, New York; Unearthed at Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in the U.K., and Pleasantville at G. Gibson Gallery, Seattle as well as at Studio 9 in Istanbul. His work has appeared in numerous books and periodicals, and his artist publication titled Dead Man's Hand, based on early 20th century crime photography and Film Noir was named one of the best books of 2013 by Photoeye. He currently lives on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.