

# JASON MCCOY INC.

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## PRESS RELEASE



Kenneth Blom, *The Sun*, 2011, Oil on canvas, 59 x 67 in.

### Northern Light

June 8 - July 29, 2011

Reception: Wednesday, June 8, 6-8 PM

Jason McCoy Gallery is pleased to present *Northern Light*, an exhibition featuring a small selection of 19<sup>th</sup> Century, modern, and contemporary Northern European artists. Ranging from a print by **Edvard Munch** and a significant Romantic landscape painting by **Johan Christian Dahl** to photographs by Danish artist **Trine Søndergaard** and new works by Norwegian painter **Kenneth Blom**, *Northern Light* explores the distinct notion of mood and atmosphere that continues to characterize much of Scandinavian and Northern European art.

The paintings of **Kenneth Blom** (B. 1967) are characterized by an enigmatic blend of architectural and figurative elements. While Blom's gestures range from expressive to restrained, his spaces are intentionally vast, creating an overt sense of mysticism. As his figures often seem to merge with their surroundings, they appear forlorn in the context of the world at large.

Born in Bergen, Norway, the Romantic landscape painter **Johan Christian Dahl** (1788–1857) moved to Dresden in 1818, where he became a professor at the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts in 1824. In Dresden, Dahl met his mentor **Caspar David Friedrich**, with whom he would have the most profound influence on German Romantic painting. Later, Dahl promoted the preservation of historic monuments in Norway and he later became one of the founders of the National Gallery and the Art Society in Christiania.

**Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg** (1783–1853) was born in Blåkrug in the Duchy of Schleswig (now the southern part of Jutland in Denmark). He is credited with laying the foundation for the Golden Age of Danish Painting (ca. 1800-1850). In addition to his portraits of the Copenhagen middle class, Eckersberg's Marine paintings, an example of which will be shown here, are among his most prominent works. This is partially due to Eckersberg's great passion for ships. By the age of 56, he had sailed around the Skagerrak, the Kattegat, the North Sea, and as far as the English Channel.

Born in Copenhagen, **Svend Hammershøi** (1873-1948) studied under N.C. Kierkegaard. While less famous than his brother Vilhelm, Svend created an extensive body of work, whose motifs are largely inspired by the city of Copenhagen. His depictions of various local architectural sites are defined by an unusual sense of light that bestows an otherworldly aura to the scenery.

The Expressionist **Edvard Munch** (1863-1944) is as much known for his paintings as he is for his innovative practice of printmaking. This exhibition will feature a print inspired by his famous composition *Summer Night's Dream (The Voice)*, which conveys a sense of anxiety that reflects the artist's belief that the deeper regions of the psyche are accessible through formal rhythm and variation in tone.

The Berlin-based **Erik Schmidt** (B. 1968) has worked extensively in film as well as painting, and examples of each will be presented here. Schmidt's work is dedicated to the exploration of various cultures, their environment and inherent social rituals. His best-known body of work, entitled *Hunting Grounds*, was inspired by the German aristocracy's tradition of hunting as a prestigious group activity. However, in Schmidt's work, the custom serves as both a social study and a mirror of the interior lives of the people who engage in it.

One of **Trine Søndergaard**'s most noted photographic series is *Strude*, examples of which will be featured here. The *strude* is the name of the mask-like garment that was worn by women on the Danish island of Fanø to cover their faces from the wind, sun and sand. This style of dress, now considered a traditional costume, is worn only for an annual fête day. For three years, Søndergaard visited the island for this celebration and photographed the women by a window in a small attic as they dressed for the festivities.

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