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**MAD. SQ. ART
Presents First Public Art Commission In The US
By
Acclaimed Dutch Artist
Jacco Olivier**

**Exhibition of six painterly animations installed outdoors in
Madison Square Park**

On view through March 12, 2012

New York—Mad. Sq. Art presents an **outdoor exhibition of six painterly animations** by **acclaimed Dutch artist Jacco Olivier** as the final presentation of its 2011 season. Mad. Sq. Art celebrates the artist's first public art commission in the US, which features both new, site-specific and existing works displayed throughout the Park. Olivier's series of stop-motion animations will continue to brighten New York's winter landscape with moving images exemplary of the artist's characteristically rich color palette and lavishly textured style. The exhibition remains on view daily in Madison Square **through March 12, 2012.**

Beginning with a single image, Olivier introduces subtle alterations with each additional

layer through his process of over-painting. After he paints and re-paints his images, Olivier photographs each stage of the process as stop-motion animation until an original no longer exists. The resulting work reveals a history of the painting process that captures scraps of narrative and visual iconography brought to light as a moving painting.

According to the artist, Jacco Olivier, exhibiting in Madison Square Park provides “an opportunity to go totally abstract and see things on a molecular level, to change perspective[...] to show an animation in the ground, you really have to look down to see it, which creates a little private moment for the viewer that is free of narrative, subject or meaning.”

President of the Madison Square Park Conservancy, Debbie Landau comments, “Mad. Sq. Art is pleased to bring Jacco Olivier and his richly colorful work to Madison Square Park. The subtle yet engaging quality of his animations infuse an appreciated energy into the Park during the winter months ahead, drawing connections between scenes of natural landscape in his beautiful, painterly animations and the natural life of the Park that so commonly lays hidden beneath the snow each winter.”

Olivier’s exhibition for Madison Square Park features a combination of the artist’s larger and more intimate works including: *Stumble* (2009); *Hide* (2004); *Rabbit Hole* (2011); *Bird* (2011); *Deer* (2011); and *Home* (2004). Animations are displayed on screens imbedded in and suspended throughout the Park’s existing landscape, equally animating life in the Park’s heavily trafficked and quieter spaces. Olivier’s moving images of flora and fauna are set to artfully draw parallels to their natural accompaniments in Madison Square Park for its 50,000 daily visitors.

In connection with the exhibition, Mad. Sq. Art will publish a limited-edition exhibition catalogue designed by Pentagram, featuring a scholarly essay about Olivier’s new work along with full-color photographs by acclaimed photographer James Ewing. The publication will mark the first time Mad. Sq. Art has documented a moving-image project with a printed catalogue.

About the Artist:

Dutch artist Jacco Olivier (b. 1972) studied at the Rijksakademie, and lives and works in Amsterdam. In 2010 he had solo exhibitions at the Centro de Arte de Caja de Burgos, Spain, and at the Blaffer Gallery at the University of Houston, Texas. He was included in exhibitions at the MCA Denver (2006), ZKM, Museum fur Neue Kunst & Medienmuseum, Karlsruhe (2007) and in the 8th SITE Santa Fe Biennial: The Dissolve, curated by Daniel Belasco and Sarah Lewis (2010). In 2012, Olivier will participate in a residency program at Artspace in San Antonio, Texas. Jacco Olivier is represented by Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York; Victoria Miro Gallery, London; Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin; and Parra & Romero Galeria de Arte, Madrid; and Ron Mandos Gallery in Amsterdam. His exhibition in Madison Square Park is Olivier’s New York public art debut.

Mad. Sq. Art and Madison Square Park Conservancy:

Mad. Sq. Art is the free, contemporary art program of the Madison Square Park Conservancy.

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Since its inception in 2004, Mad. Sq. Art has commissioned and presented more than twenty premier installations in Madison Square Park by acclaimed artists ranging in practice and media. Mad. Sq. Art has exhibited works by artists including Alison Saar, Bill Beirne Jim Campbell, Richard Deacon, Bill Fontana, Ernie Gehr, Antony Gormley, Jene Highstein, Tadashi Kawamata, Mel Kendrick, Sol LeWitt, Olia Lialina & Dragan Espenschied, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Roxy Paine, Jaume Plensa, Shannon Plumb, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Jessica Stockholder, Mark di Suvero, and William Wegman, among others.

In March 2011, Mad. Sq. Art received the International Art Critics Association (AICA-USA)'s 2010 Second Place award for "Best Project in a Public Space" for the organization's exhibition of *Antony Gormley: Event Horizon*, which featured 31 sculptures of the human form placed in and around Madison Square Park and on the rooftops of architectural treasures throughout New York City's Flatiron District and environs. In Spring 2011, Mad. Sq. Art presented the New York City public art debut of acclaimed Spanish artist Jaume Plensa with the premiere of *Echo*, a towering 44-foot-tall sculpture of the face of a young girl in dream state. Most recently, Mad. Sq. Art premiered Alison Saar's *Feallan and Fallow*, a six piece installation featuring four newly commissioned works by the Los Angeles-based artist.

The Madison Square Park Conservancy, a public/private partnership with New York City Parks & Recreation, is the nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping historic Madison Square Park a bright, beautiful and lively public space.

For more information on the Madison Square Park Conservancy and its programs, please visit <http://madisonsquarepark.org>.

*Image credit: Jacco Olivier's "Home" (2006) in Madison Square Park. Animation on DVD 1 min 13 sec. Preferred viewing size 45 x80 cm. Photo by James Ewing / Courtesy Madison Square Park Conservancy.

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