

INMAN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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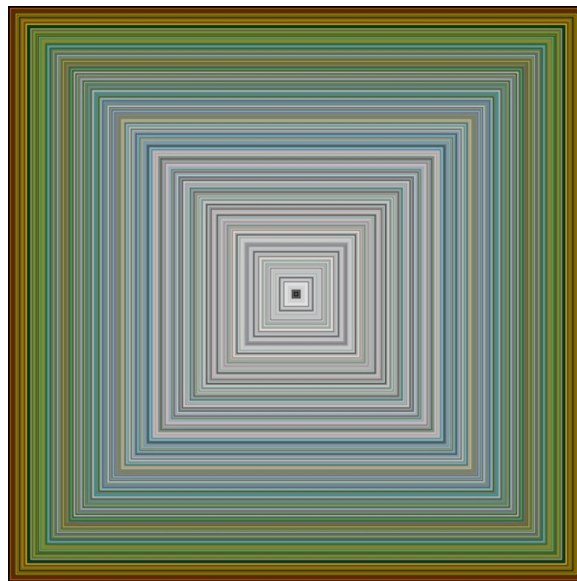
Inman Gallery is pleased to present
the exhibition:

Jason Salavon: *The Top 100,000,000*

January 17 – February 28, 2014

Opening Reception:
Friday January 17th
6 – 8 pm

Gallery hours:
Tues. – Sat., 11 – 6
and by appointment



Jason Salavon, *Impressionist Painting*, 2010
archival inkjet print, 59 x 59 inches, ed. 7 + 2 APs

Inman Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of recent work by Chicago-based artist **Jason Salavon** entitled *The Top 100,000,000*. The exhibition opens Friday, January 17 with a reception from 6 to 8 pm, and will be on view until February 28, 2013. This is Salavon's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery.

In his new media practice Salavon utilizes information technology to produce original perspectives on everyday life. Using self-authored software, he collects masses of data from popular culture sources—all the Playboy Centerfolds since 1960, for example—which he then configures—assembling, ordering, or averaging—into visually arresting artworks. In Salavon's prints, videos, and real-time installations, he visualizes significant quantities of an experience to reveal the subtler qualities, the patterns and nuances, of that experience.

In *The Top 100,000,000*, Salavon pushes our desire to reorganize the stuff of the world to extremes. "Top 10" listicles may offer an ever-popular and easy way to consume information on the Internet, but at the scale of "big data" the results of digitizing, tabulating, and ranking, become increasingly abstract, if not equivocal.

A selection of recent prints and one Internet-based screen-work, on view in the North Gallery, dizzyingly depict the latent complexity of the familiar. In *Impressionist Painting*, 2010, Salavon portrays the 1024 most common colors in Claude Monet's 100 most expensive paintings as a composition of concentric squares. The thickness of each line represents the frequency with which Monet used that color, while the order of the squares produces gradations between color saturations, not unlike traditional painting. *<Color> Wheel*, 2012, an oversized image of a tertiary ROYGBV color wheel, comprises thousands of images Salavon found by searching for each of the gradient's twelve color terms. The resulting spectrum, though absent of words, charts the broad, and unexpected linguistic associations of color.

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Three multi-colored prints from the suite *One Week Skin*, 2012, each concentrate the feed of a cable television network into a single image. Salavon captured 15 frames per second for one week of the broadcast each of CNN, HBO, and ESPN, which he then reformatted with three different methods, including the square-pattern approach presented here. Each network's trio of images display the same data but with "skins" varying from segmented structures to visual "noise"—formal echoes of perceptions of the content portrayed. Similarly, Salavon's *Rainbow Aggregator*, 2013, collages trending topics from the Web into a single screen. A real-time feed of words and phrases floats over a fluorescent radiating rainbow, suggesting waves of our collective consciousness as documented by the Internet.

Salavon further expresses the Internet's proficiency at tracking human interest in his newest work, *The Master Index* or *TMI*, 2013. *TMI* is an ongoing tabulation of the 5 million most visited English Wikipedia articles from Dec. 2007 to, currently, Nov. 2013. The table is available in its entirety on Salavon.com, where viewers can sort it alphabetically or by ranked page view. The South Gallery features three selections from *TMI* as wall murals: the top 200 ordered by rank, the top 2500 ordered alphabetically, and the top 100k ordered by rank. Font and page size varies with each mural, reflecting the relative scale of each listing, and suggesting different fields of view and degrees of focus. Potentially absurd, entertaining, and poignant, *TMI* at once offers a "quick" reference guide to popular inquiry in the 21st century, and a mirror to contemporary human behavior.



Jason Salavon, *Rainbow Aggregator*, 2013; real-time software, internet connection, computer, 55" display; Ed. 3 + 1 AP

Jason Salavon (born Indianapolis, IN, 1970) currently lives and works in Chicago, IL. He studied art and computer science at the University of Texas, Austin, TX (BA, 1993), and earned an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (1997). Salavon has exhibited his work internationally for the last twenty years including solo exhibitions at the Taubman Museum, Roanoke, VA (2013); the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH (2008); and the List Visual Arts Center, MIT, Cambridge, MA (2005). His *digital cave* (2010), a special commission for the exhibition "Echoes of the Past: The Buddhist Cave Temples of Xiangtangshan", recently traveled to museums in San Diego, CA; Washington D.C.; Dallas, TX; and Chicago IL (2010-12). Salavon's work is included in the public collections of The Museum of Modern

Art, New York, NY; the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual Arts and the Computation Institute at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Special Gallery Event: Saturday, January 18th, 1:00pm

Please join us as artist Jason Salavon leads a walk-through and conversation about his exhibition, *The Top 100,000,000*.

For more information, contact the gallery at 713.526.7800 or info@inmangallery.com