

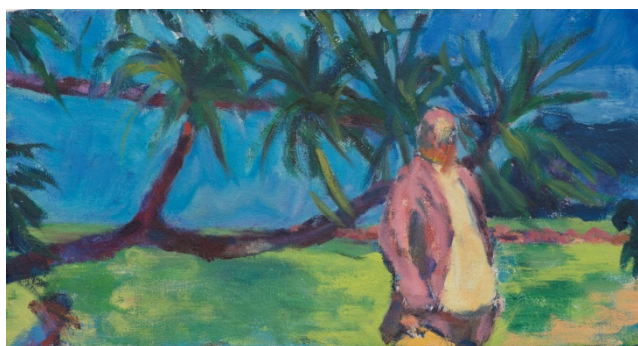


William Holman Gallery is pleased to present two concurrent solo exhibitions: *Engraved Light and Mirror*, glass sculpture by Nicolette Jelen and *New Painting* a series of oil on canvas works by John Cunningham. The exhibitions will be on view from November 19 - December 13, 2014.

John Cunningham: *New Painting*
Wednesday, November 19 – December 13, 2014

John Cunningham's paintings are a lifelong labor of looking and interpreting. Inspired by the techniques of the great modernist painters of the late 19th and early 20th century Cunningham attempts to channel these icons of Western Art History through his art and philosophy on life. Color and composition are paramount to Cunningham whose canvases range from scenes of New York and Paris to verdant landscapes that are dreamy and idyllic.

The lasting influence of the Impressionists is apparent in the New York art world this fall. MoMA's Matisse *The Cut-Outs* exhibition is garnering rave reviews, while Chris Ofili simultaneously channels and critiques the era of Matisse and Gauguin with his *Night and Day* exhibition at New Museum. Cunningham offers a more aesthetic admiration for these artists, as he emulates their techniques and lifestyle.



John Cunningham, *Our Man in Tahiti*, Oil on canvas, 17 x 9 inches

In *Our Man in Tahiti* a monolithic suited man, hands in pockets, stands before a tropical landscape, while a hatted figure in the lower left looks on. The title may conjure ideas of Gauguin, living in Tahiti, his lifestyle adored by the future generations of artists. The painting is actually based on a photograph Cunningham found of Matisse in Tahiti, and refers to both a reverence for the idealized artist's life embodied and its impossibility – Matisse wasn't actually enamored of Tahiti. In *O Bistro* Cunningham renders a quintessential French scene, reminiscent of his early years and education in Paris, which speaks to the quintessential story of the artist in Paris with a self-aware humor. That Cunningham paints en plein air adds to the charm, the nostalgia and the wit of the works.

Born in New York, Cunningham has been showing his work publicly since 1983. He has studied at the National Academy of Design, The Art Students League of New York, and the New York Studio School, as well as L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts. His work has been on exhibition in New York, Paris, Nimes, Florence and Mexico. After receiving a degree in literature from the University of Pennsylvania, Cunningham returned to New York to pursue work in drawing and painting. He subsequently moved to France. Currently, Cunningham lives and works between the two cities.