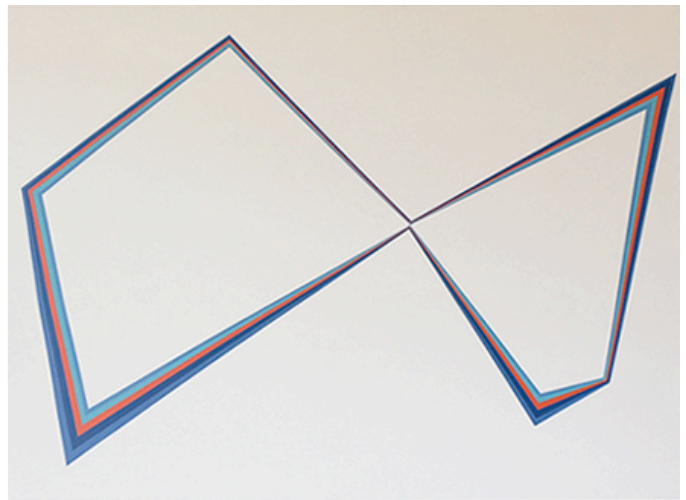


DENIS GARDARIN GALLERY TO CURATE  
*CONTIGUOUS: 30 WORKS*,  
AN EXHIBITION OF JOSEPH LA PIANA'S WORKS  
IN THE ARTIST'S RED HOOK STUDIO

Exhibition to coincide with Gallery's presentation of La Piana's  
*Tension*, a site-specific large-scale installation in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century warehouse in  
Red Hook, Brooklyn



**September 10, 2015** – Denis Gardarin Gallery is pleased to announce two concurrent projects with artist Joseph La Piana in Red Hook, Brooklyn, opening on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Furthering the gallery's mission to mount site-specific exhibitions that support and expand artists' visions, Gardarin will curate key works from La Piana's prolific oeuvre within the artist's 4,000 square-foot studio while presenting La Piana's large-scale installation *Tension* in a former shipbuilding warehouse at 202 Coffey Street. *Tension* will be open to the public through September 27<sup>th</sup> and the curated studio exhibition *Contiguous: 30 Works* will be on view through October 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Brooklyn-born La Piana explores biological, kinetic, and mathematical theories and transforms them through an extensive series of artworks. For the studio exhibition, Gardarin has chosen 30 significant works from the self-taught artist that emphasize his evolving use of various mediums, including wire sculptures, works on paper, corrugated cardboard sculptures, and marble paintings. La Piana's series build upon and reference one another in a process he compares to DNA transcription and replication. Gardarin examines La Piana's work and process from within the space of original artistic production: his studio.

Though La Piana's work is largely self-referential, Gardarin emphasizes connections between his work and seminal movements in 20<sup>th</sup> century art history. The sculptural reliefs of La Piana's *Refraction* series, thirteen of which will be featured in the studio exhibition, lend themselves to comparisons with neo-concrete works such as Helio Oiticica's *Spatial Relief* or Lygia Clark's paintings. Additionally, the sculptural forms of La Piana's *Corrugated* series are reminiscent of the conceptual forms and mathematical models of Man Ray and Hiroshi Sugimoto.

The exhibition *Contiguous: 30 Works* at the artist's studio is paired with a new large-scale, site-specific installation within an industrial warehouse in Red Hook, Brooklyn. *Tension* spans over 20,000 square feet and amasses 11,000 feet of yellow latex stretched back-and-forth across each of the structural concrete pillars at 202 Coffey Street. As with many of La Piana's smaller-scale works, the installation pushes the capabilities of a static material by testing its infinite tensile strength and expandability. Beyond the physical characteristics of *Tension*, La Piana draws a parallel between the psychological and emotional boundaries of humankind testing one's infinite capacity. The installation includes an audio component to enhance the experience for the viewer. While remaining unique to La Piana, *Tension* recalls a similar experience of Lygia Pape's *Teia I, C (Web)* installation.

Joseph La Piana

***Tension***

202 Coffey Street

Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY, 11231

*Take Van Brunt Street to Dikeman Street and make a right and follow to end of Dikeman Street.*

*Warehouse entrance on the left.*

On view to the public:

Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> | 12 – 6PM

Joseph La Piana

***Contiguous: 30 Works***

Joseph La Piana Studio

Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY, 11231

On view to the public:

Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> by appointment only

To book an appointment, please e-mail [info@denisgardarin.com](mailto:info@denisgardarin.com) or call +1 646 577 4689

## About Joseph La Piana

Joseph La Piana's work explores reinterpretation of biological, kinetic, and mathematical theories that he infuses and transforms across various mediums and disciplines. Like DNA, La Piana pulls from the origin of objects, pairing them with new elements and material, essentially developing a new identity, function and purpose, thus revealing a new life.

Born in Brooklyn in 1966, La Piana is a self-taught abstract artist whose work is included in numerous public and private collections worldwide. During the 2011 Venice Biennale, the artist's *Text Project* was presented by the Andy Warhol Museum. La Piana's work was also featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions at the Robert Miller Gallery throughout his partnership with the gallery from 2007 to 2014. In recent years, his work has also been exhibited at the Watermill Center in Watermill, NY; the Glass House in New Cannon, CT; Pioneer Works in Red Hook, NY; and Cityarts in New York, NY. La Piana lives and works in Red Hook, and is deeply engaged with the cultural community of the neighborhood.

### About Denis Gardarin Gallery

Denis Gardarin Gallery was founded in 2014 to engage with the cultural shift in art production and reception in this era of globalization. Conceived principally as a platform for artists, the gallery interrogates the notion of physical site through a migrating program that mounts museum-quality exhibitions in an international context. Denis Gardarin Gallery focuses on comprehensive investigations of artists who are leaders across disciplines, movements, and eras, initially focusing on the practices of conceptual artist Mathieu Mercier, early leader of Brazilian Concrete Movement Geraldo de Barros, and key figure of the Post-Actionist movement Rudolf Polanszky. While offering artists traditional representation, Denis Gardarin Gallery is responsive to contemporary artists' needs for more flexibility and also supports one-off artist's projects, performances, and exhibitions. In addition to exhibitions of the artists in his stable, in Fall 2015 Denis Gardarin will also present projects with abstract artist Joseph La Piana, Israeli performance artist Naama Tsabar, and Belgian performance artist and musician Joris van de Moortel.

French-born Gardarin brings over 20 years of experience to this venture as an art advisor, artist liaison, and gallerist, working with influential contemporary artists at Brent Sikkema, New York, Sean Kelly, New York, White Cube, London. As liaison to Tracey Emin, Laurent Grasso, Antony Gormley, Kris Martin, Josiah McElheny, Vik Muniz, Janaina Tschape and Cerith Wyn Evans among others, Gardarin has partnered with prominent international institutions to produce critically acclaimed exhibitions. Gardarin, in partnership with a select group of artists, will work to develop, support and expand the scope and reception of each artist's vision.

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### DENIS GARDARIN GALLERY

40 West 27th Street, 8th Floor

New York, NY 10001

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By appointment only

Visit [denisgardarin.com](http://denisgardarin.com) for further information and schedule of upcoming events.

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For all other inquiries, please contact [info@denisgardarin.com](mailto:info@denisgardarin.com).

For further information on the artist, please contact Bethanie Brady: [BB@Bethaniebrady.com](mailto:BB@Bethaniebrady.com)

Image: (left) *Tension*, 2015 (right) *Refraction Offset D*, 2013, acrylic and enamel on canvas, 61 x 47.5 x 1.5 inches  
Courtesy of Joseph La Piana Studio