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Adad Hannah: Case Studies

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Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

When we define the Photograph as a motionless image, this does not mean only that the figures it represents do not move; it means that they do not emerge, do not leave: they are anesthetized and fastened down, like butterflies.

- Roland Barthes, 1980

Equinox Gallery is pleased to present **Adad Hannah: Case Studies**, the artist's second solo show with the gallery. For over a decade, Adad Hannah has been working within a photographic tradition that combines elements of very early photographic practices, film and video pioneers such as Andy Warhol and Nam June Paik, and the cinematographic approaches of photographers such as Jeff Wall and Cindy Sherman. Largely known for extending and exploring the photographic moment by stretching it out over time using a video camera pointed at tableaux vivants, Adad Hannah's approach to photography and video is cinematic and focuses on the discursive possibilities of performativity and photography and how, particularly in digital video, stillness can be distilled into an extended moment.

Time and its complicated relationship to photography have been central to Adad Hannah's practice for more over ten years. In his new exhibition, *Case Studies*, Hannah has created three series of performance-based photographs that explore the relationship between the human body, movement, and its photographic representations. Taking both Frank and Lillian Gilbreth's research on motion studies and ergonomics, and Eadweard Muybridge's studies in human movement and motion as his starting points, this exhibition highlights Adad Hannah's renewed interest in performing motion in photography frame by frame, towards the illusion of movement. Through the combination of elaborate postures and poses, interrupted with colourful geometric forms, the works in *Case Studies* speak to the ways in which photography can be used as a tool to explore ideas around performance, temporality, and the indexical quality of photography.

Adad Hannah was born in New York and raised in Israel, England and Vancouver. He received his BFA from the Emily Carr University of Art + Design, and was awarded his MFA and PhD from Concordia University in Montreal. Hannah has exhibited widely across Canada and internationally, including exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (Connecticut), Samsung LEEUM Museum (Seoul), Prague Biennial, Museo de Bellas Arts (Santiago), National Museum of Contemporary Art (Bucharest), Zendai MoMA (Shanghai), National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), Koffler Centre of the Arts (Toronto), and Ikon Gallery (Birmingham). His work is also included in many public collections such as the National Gallery of Canada, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, LEEUM Museum (Seoul), Mordes Collection (Miami), and Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. Hannah was recently invited to Senegal to stage a full scale tableau vivant of Gericault's *Raft of the Medusa*.

Adad Hannah lives and works in Vancouver, BC.