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# John Mendelsohn: The Passing Paintings Press Release

Meredith Guinness

The Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery

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*Media Contact: Meredith Guinness, 203.254.4000, ext. 2950  
mguinness@fairfield.edu*

**December 2, 2014 – February 27, 2015**  
***John Mendelsohn: The Passing Paintings***  
**Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery, Fairfield University**

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (Nov. 7, 2014) – **Fairfield University’s Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery** presents its newest exhibition, “**John Mendelsohn: The Passing Paintings,**” on view **December 2, 2014 through February 27, 2015. An opening reception, free and open to the public, takes place on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, from 5 to 7 p.m.** New York-based artist John Mendelsohn is best known for his remarkable work with color and pattern. This exhibition features 48 paintings from “Passing,” a cycle of paintings created by the artist during a 12-month period from 2010 to 2011.

The cycle is comprised of five series of paintings titled “Turbulence,” “Crosswalk,” “Vanishing,” “Flayed” and “Paradise,” and while each series has its own character, each is also involved in states of change. The artist has written about these works that “Instability and dissolution appear in many forms; absence and presence are in continual dialogue. The paint itself is treated physically: combed, marbleized, wiped off, and scraped away. As the paintings break down, they open up, revealing the surface and space beyond.” The entire “Passing” cycle can be viewed online at [www.johnmendelsohn123.com](http://www.johnmendelsohn123.com). Mendelsohn’s work in the Walsh Gallery will be complemented by seven more of his paintings, including a selection from the “Six Movements” series, which are on view in the lobby of the Quick Center for the Arts, adjacent to the gallery.

Mendelsohn is an adjunct professor in the Studio Art Program, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, at Fairfield University. He has shown his paintings in solo exhibitions at Artists Space, New York; Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn; Cheryl Pelavin Fine Art, New York; Michael

Walls Gallery, New York; Hal Bromm Gallery, New York; Rupert Ravens Contemporary, Newark; and University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Venice Biennale, Nordiska Kompaniet, Stockholm, Sweden; MoMA P.S.1, New York; Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis; Hallwalls, Buffalo; and Wellesley College Museum, Wellesley, Mass.

Mendelsohn has received grants from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Tree of Life Foundation. His exhibitions have been reviewed in the New York Times, Art in America, The Huffington Post, The New Criterion, Arts Magazine, Artnet, and d'Art International Magazine. He received a B.A. from Columbia University in 1971, an MFA from Rutgers University in 1974, and participated in the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program.

This exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated brochure with an essay by John Mendelsohn. A gallery talk by the artist will take place on February 10 at 5:30 p.m.

**The Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery** is open Monday through Friday, 11:00 to 5:00 p.m., and one-half hour before, and during intermission of Quick Center for the Arts performances. Admission is always free. For more information, call the Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery at (203) 254-4062, or visit [www.fairfield.edu/walshgallery](http://www.fairfield.edu/walshgallery). The Walsh Gallery is located in the Quick Center for the Arts on the campus of Fairfield University, 1073 North Benson Road in Fairfield, Conn.

*Fairfield University is a Jesuit University, rooted in one of the world's oldest intellectual and spiritual traditions. More than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from 36 states, 47 foreign countries, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are enrolled in the University's five schools. In the spirit of rigorous and sympathetic inquiry into all dimensions of human experience, Fairfield welcomes students from diverse backgrounds to share ideas and engage in open conversations. The University is located in the heart of a region where the future takes shape, on a stunning campus on the Connecticut coast just an hour from New York City.*

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