

Richard Gray Gallery and Monique Meloche Gallery are pleased  
to announce concurrent exhibitions of new work by

## RASHID JOHNSON

RICHARD  
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GALLERY



### **COSMIC SLOPS**

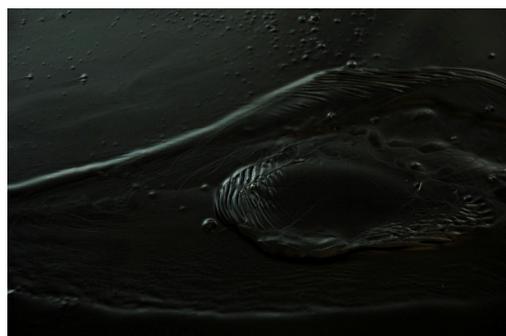
September 5 – October 4, 2008  
Opens Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 5-8 pm

### ***The New Escapist Promised Land Garden and Recreation Center***

September 5 – October 11, 2008  
Opens Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm

***The New Escapist Promised Land Garden and Recreation Center*** is Rashid Johnson's third solo show at moniquemeloche. Johnson will transform the gallery into a mystical recreation space that remixes black history with references to alchemy, divination and astronomy, freely combining the natural and spiritual worlds. "I'm thinking of this show as a creolized orgy between Sun Ra, Paul Gauguin, Kazimir Malevich, Debra Dickerson and Eldridge Cleaver (if his soul were no longer on ice). Mix in some green plants, shea butter, black soap and serve," Johnson said. New photographs, sculptures, and 'paintings' are only part of this site-specific multi-media installation.

***COSMIC SLOPS*** at Richard Gray Gallery consists of three-dimensional wall works made of an amalgam of black soap and microcrystalline wax that Johnson melted together and then hand poured into unique surfaces (see detail below). The so-named "cosmic slops" range in size from 36 x 24 inches to impressive 72-inch squares that have been turned on their sides to create diamond shaped reliefs. Selected sculptures by Johnson will also be included in this exhibition.



**Rashid Johnson** (b. Chicago, 1977, lives NY) is a conceptual artist who works in myriad media including sculpture, photography and video, among others. He received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2005) and his BFA from Columbia College, Chicago (2000). His work has been exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Detroit Institute of Arts; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington D.C.; the Institute of Contemporary Photography, New York; the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT; the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago where he had a solo exhibition. Upcoming exhibitions include *21: Selections of Contemporary Art from the*

*Brooklyn Museum* opening September 19, a solo exhibition at galeria annarumma 404, Milan, Italy in November, and *30 Americans* at the Rubell Family Collection, Miami in December.

#### **For further information please contact:**

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Monique Meloche	118 N. Peoria	Chicago IL 60607	312.455.0299	T-Sat 11-6
Richard Gray Gallery	875 North Michigan Avenue	Chicago IL 60611	312.642.8877	M-Fri 10-5:30, Saturday by appt