MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY
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PRESS RELEASE

Jasper Johns: Recent Drawings
November 5, 2026 to January 23, 2027
Opening: Wednesday, November 4, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Matthew Marks is pleased to announce **Jasper Johns: Recent Drawings**, the next exhibition in his gallery at 526 West 22nd Street. The exhibition includes twelve drawings made over the past two years.

In a series of eight drawings, small images at the top of each work are taken from a drawing Johns made fifteen years ago on Shrinky Dinks, a plastic material made for children to draw on that shrinks approximately 60 percent when heated. The works incorporate many of the artist's well-known motifs drawn from his extensive personal lexicon, including the silhouette of a young boy, which first appeared in Johns's painting series, *The Seasons* (1985–86). Other familiar motifs include a Rubin's vase composed of two self-portraits in profile facing one another, the American Sign Language alphabet, and an abstracted figure inspired by Picasso's 1938 painting, *Reclining Nude*.

In three other drawings, Johns again revisits imagery from *The Seasons*, in which the artist's shadow is flanked by references to his earlier work. In these new drawings, Johns transforms the image into a memento mori, replacing his shadow with a skeleton holding a skull.

"Smiling skeletons, sinister skulls… a constellation of elegiac subjects that face us with intransigence and difficulty," art historian Michael Ann Holly has written of Johns's work. "Visual valedictions to an art of contradiction: absence and presence…melancholy and joy, agitation and silence, death and beauty."

Jasper Johns: Recent Drawings will be on view at 526 West 22nd Street from November 5, 2026 to January 23, 2027, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

For additional information please call 212-243-0200 or email inquiries@matthewmarks.com.