

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Carol Vogel, "Matthew Barney Heads to The Morgan Library," *The New York Times*,
March 1, 2013, p. C24.

Inside Art

Carol Vogel

Matthew Barney Heads To the Morgan Library

Try as it might, the Morgan Library & Museum has never been a magnet for the art world's young and trendy set. That may change, at least temporarily, when its big show "Subliming Vessel: The Drawings of Matthew Barney" opens on May 10. Mr. Barney, an artist with a cult-like following, produces films and videos, most of which he performs in. He also makes sculptures and objects, as well as photographs, books and installations derived from the films. He fashions his sculptures out of unusual materials like tapioca (dumbbells) and petroleum jelly (a weight bench). His drawings are the least known of his works. But to a place like the Morgan they are also the most intriguing.

"There will be many people who will be surprised to see a Matthew Barney exhibition here," said William M. Griswold, the museum's director. "But his drawings are central to what we do. Many of them explore aspects of his technical innovations and his process, which makes a show like this ideal. For many people it will be a real revelation."

The exhibition, organized by Isabelle Dervaux, the Morgan's curator of modern and contemporary art, and Klaus Kertess, an independent curator, will be on view through Sept. 2. It will then travel to the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, where it is scheduled to open in October.

It is the first museum retrospective devoted to Mr. Barney's drawings and will consist of about 100 works. They range from the late 1980s, when he was still an undergraduate at Yale University, to those he created in conjunction with his five-part "Cremaster" film cycle, produced between 1994 and 2002, to his current project, "River of Fundament," his film and live performance collaboration with the composer Jonathan Bepler that was inspired by Norman Mailer's novel "Ancient Evenings."

Loans for the exhibition are coming from museums here and in Europe as well as from private collections. Besides the drawings, Ms. Dervaux said, the show will include some of Mr. Barney's storyboards. To show the kinds of myths and legends that inspire his work he has chosen books

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Carol Vogel, "Matthew Barney Heads to The Morgan Library," *The New York Times*,
March 1, 2013, p. C24.

and manuscripts from the Morgan's own collection, like a 2,000-year-old Egyptian Book of the Dead, a medieval zodiac and a copy of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass." (When the show moves to Paris, Mr. Barney will choose a different set of works from the Bibliothèque Nationale's collection.) He will also create a new "Drawing Restraint," the 20th in a chronicle he began in college and is still adding to, usually in conjunction with a museum exhibition.



PRIVATE COLLECTION; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND GLADSTONE GALLERY

Drawings by Matthew Barney, including the one above, will be exhibited at the Morgan Library & Museum; left, part of "Human Nature," by Ugo Rondinone, which will be shown at Rockefeller Center.