

GLADSTONE GALLERY

**artnet**<sup>®</sup>

## David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows for October

David Ebony, Wednesday, October 22, 2014



Jean-Luc Mylayne, #560, *Janvier, Février* (2008).

Photo: Courtesy Gladstone.

# GLADSTONE GALLERY

## **4. Jean-Luc Mylayne at Gladstone Gallery, through November 8.**

Jean-Luc Mylayne's sumptuous, large-scale photographs of landscapes with birds at first seem implausible and artificial. The small birds lining pools of water or roosting on tree branches appear content and so perfectly poised that they look digitally enhanced or Photoshopped. But the pictures actually result from the French artist's painstaking process and dedicated interaction with the avian world. He spends weeks watching birds and waiting with his equipment at the ready. Eventually, he achieves a mutual familiarity with his subjects that allows him to take these extraordinary shots.

*No. 189*, a characteristic—and stunning—work, shows a row of six small birds congregating around a circular pool or birdbath. They seem to communicate with each other in calm discourse in an idealized image of serene nature. A similarly mesmerizing work, depicting a far more agitated scene, *No 560* features two white birds, perhaps a predatory species in mid-flight. Photographed against a crystal-blue background, with the blurry wings suggesting furtive action, the birds dive from their perches on leafless trees. Their aim, supposedly toward an unseen prey, remains unsure, but certainly adds an enigmatic element to this unforgettable image.