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SPACE TO CREATE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

### The Body Through a Storefront Window

"Cells" by Johnny Thornton

266 W. 37th Street

December 3, 2016 - January 1, 2017

Sidewalk Reception: Saturday, December 3, 7:30-9pm

**New York, NY:** chashama presents *Cells*, a layered painting installation consisting of more than 25 paintings of blood cells by artist, **Johnny Thornton**. Through figurative, abstracted paintings of blood cells and the insides of the human body--representative of the various complex systems that continuously work together, determining humans' wellbeing--Thornton's work explores the biological system as a whole. The layered wall of paintings will be constructed and displayed in a way that the best vantage point to see the work will be from the sidewalk.

*"Cells is an entry point through which to perceive the body on a micro scale in a way that emphasizes both the marvel and fragility of being alive."*

The paintings in *Cells* are combined and layered to create a single image, highlighting the most imperceptible and hidden micro-processes, offering viewers an intimate glimpse of what the body goes through during any given "living moment". There will be four layers of paintings which overlap to create a pixilated effect. The paintings are all oil on canvas, ranging in sizes from 12x12 to 48x48. During the Sidewalk Reception on Saturday, December 2, from 7:30-9:00pm, the public will be invited in a few at a time to take photos while being immersed in the installation.

The series began in 2013 when the artist, **Johnny Thornton**, was waiting for a kidney transplant. During this time, he became very interested in the tiny processes in blood cells that were controlling his illness. Thornton's wellbeing was constantly being measured through blood tests, and as his illness elevated, the tests were the only insights to the state of his health. Fortunately, Thornton received a transplant in November 2014 from his brother. Two years later, his state of his health is constantly measured by his blood.

**Johnny Thornton** is an artist living in New York City. Born in Connecticut, Johnny Thornton spent his childhood in Johannesburg, South Africa, before moving to Tucson, Arizona. He eventually went on to study Fine Arts at the University of Arizona. Thornton earned his Master's Degree in Fine Arts at Parsons the New School For Design in 2012. He has had work exhibited throughout the United States and currently works out of his studio in Brooklyn, NY. For more information about his work, visit his [website](#) or email Johnny at [johnnythorntonartist@gmail.com](mailto:johnnythorntonartist@gmail.com).

*chashama, which means “to have vision” in Farsi, partners with property owners to activate unused real estate for artists to develop, create and present. Currently, chashama manages over 125 artist studios, six galleries, five curated office lobbies, two performance venues, and provides affordable artist housing. A connector of art and real estate since 1995, chashama has placed more than 15,000 artists into over 60 locations around New York City, becoming the largest provider of affordable space for creative use. To learn more, visit [www.chashama.org](http://www.chashama.org)*

For more information, please contact:

Chelsea Escher

[chelsea@chashama.org](mailto:chelsea@chashama.org)

(212) 391-8151 x22