

GAGOSIAN



RUDOLF POLANSZKY

Hypotetic

Opening reception: Tuesday, September 15, 12–8pm

September 15–November 28, 2020

Rheinsprung 1, Basel

Rudolf Polanszky, *Reconstructions / Choros*, 2020, aluminum, copper foil, mirrored foil, resin, silicone, cardboard, acrylic glass, pigment, and acrylic on wood, in artist's frame, 61 1/2 × 68 1/4 inches (156.1 × 173.2 cm) © Rudolf Polanszky. Photo: Jorit Aust

September 7, 2020

Gagosian is pleased to present *Hypotetic*, an exhibition of new and recent paintings and sculptures by Rudolf Polanszky. This will be his first exhibition in Switzerland, and his second with the gallery.

A key player in the Vienna art scene, Polanszky creates cerebral yet tactile works that embrace chance occurrence. In the early 1990s, Polanszky began examining the formal potential of sculpture and mixed-media painting with the series *Reconstructions* (1991–). To make these richly textured works, he uses salvaged industrial materials such as acrylic glass, aluminum, mirrored foil, resin, silicone, and wire, recombining them into purely aesthetic forms divorced from their original uses and contexts. Inspired by his father's profession as a jazz musician, Polanszky's process of "ad hoc synthesis" produces compositions that oscillate between concrete objects and symbols of subjective perception.

In this exhibition, Polanszky continues to evolve the *Reconstructions* by introducing copper foil into his material repertoire. Interspersed between fields of white corrugated cardboard and silvery

aluminum, these gently creased, gleaming metal sheets add an entirely new tonal and textural dimension to the surface of each painting. Also on view are sculptures where Polanszky translates the rough-hewn edges of these repurposed materials into three dimensions. In two large freestanding sculptures, he shapes segments of flexible ribbed aluminum tubing into gently curving forms, while in a suite of smaller tabletop works, he deftly manipulates angular strips of metal and acrylic glass into dynamic abstractions.

Polanszky's handling of material is intuitive and improvisational; he often leaves the raw components outdoors, letting the natural elements help determine the work's final form. Yet the works in *Hypotetic* also reveal his acute consideration of the properties, idiosyncrasies, and possibilities of these materials. In Polanszky's hands, industrial fragments are synthesized into shimmering tableaux that transcend their mundane origins.

Rudolf Polanszky was born in 1951 in Vienna, where he lives and works. Collections include the Rubell Museum, Miami; The Bunker Artspace, West Palm Beach, FL; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris; Werkstatt Graz, Austria; Landessammlungen Niederösterreich, St. Pölten, Austria; Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus, Austria; Sammlung SpallArt, Salzburg, Austria; and Belvedere Museum, Vienna. Exhibitions include *Translinear Structures*, Zeit Kunst Niederösterreich, Krems an der Donau, Austria (2015); *Paradox Transformations*, Museo Madre, Naples, Italy (2015–16); and *Eidola*, Secession, Vienna (2018).

#RudolfPolanszky

Press

Gagosian

pressbasel@gagosian.com

+41 61 262 00 80