

# HAUSER & WIRTH

## Press Release

### Richard Jackson Works with Books

20 March – 6 June 2021

Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles

The Book & Printed Matter Lab



Beginning 20 March, Hauser & Wirth's Book & Printed Matter Lab will spotlight multidisciplinary Californian artist Richard Jackson and his career-long fascination with the larger possibilities of artmaking and its extension to books with an intimate presentation – 'Richard Jackson: Works with Books' – organized by Dagny Janss Corcoran, renowned Los Angeles art bookseller and a longtime friend of Jackson's.

Celebrating the artist's career-spanning monograph published in 2020 by Hauser & Wirth Publishers – a critical biography of Jackson, authored by art historian John C. Welchman and featuring an in-depth illustrated chronology by Corcoran – the presentation will feature Jackson's artist's books, a new artwork, a film, and supporting archival material, displaying his preoccupation with the ambiguous requirements of codex, content, format, and purpose of a publication.

At the heart of the presentation is a new work that Jackson created within the Lab in February 2021. In 'Painted Monograph' (2021) Jackson painted all 480 pages of his new monograph, relating back to an idea he initially conceived in 1977 – 'Paint every page of each book, / while still wet stack the books filling a room, / wall to wall, floor to ceiling.' During the creation of the work, Jackson was filmed with Corcoran discussing philosophies on art, life, and book-making as they relate to the books and printed matter on display.

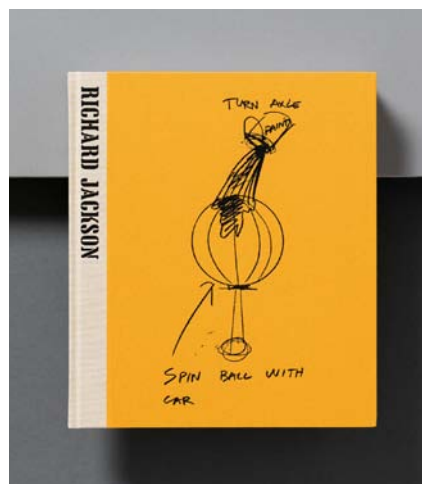
Alongside the new film produced by Corcoran, the digital presentation of the exhibition on the gallery's website will feature a curated playlist by Chris Kidd, author and close friend of Jackson's. This eclectic selection of obscure and eternal sounds interspersed with nods to Jackson's longstanding love of opera seeks to encapsulate the life and career of an artist who has never been bound by easy categorization.

'Richard Jackson: Works with Books' will be on view by request from 20 March through 6 June 2021 at Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles.

## HAUSER & WIRTH

‘Paint every page of each book,  
while still wet stack the books filling  
a room, wall to wall, floor to ceiling.’

— Richard Jackson, 1977



### About the artist

A pre-eminent figure in American contemporary art since the 1970s, Richard Jackson is influenced by both Abstract Expressionism and action painting, exploring a performative painting process which seeks to extend the potential of painting by upending its technical conventions. Born in Sacramento, California in 1939, Jackson first came to international attention with a major presentation of his installation works at the Menil Collection, Houston, in 1988, followed by the 1992 exhibition, ‘Helter Skelter,’ at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art.

### About Dagny Corcoran

Dagny Corcoran is a bookseller and founding proprietor of Art Catalogues, which has been in business since 1977 and is currently based in Culver City. One of the first booksellers to focus primarily on museum and gallery exhibition catalogues, Corcoran has amassed an unparalleled collection over the years. Profoundly interested in the artists and the cultural history of the 1960s and 1970s, she tends to collect in that direction, although her inventory canvasses the entire movement of 20th- and 21st-century modern art.

### About ‘Richard Jackson’

This publication—a critical biography of Jackson, authored by art historian John C. Welchman and featuring an in-depth illustrated chronology by Dagny Janss Corcoran—takes the artist’s life and practice as its focus. The monograph combines cutting-edge critical analysis of Jackson’s work with reflections by the artist himself, drawn from an extensive series of interviews and placed alongside new materials from Jackson’s archive. Layering history and analysis with the ready wit and succinct wisdom of the artist, Welchman’s text promises to be the primary resource on the career of one of America’s major contemporary artists. Corcoran’s chronology—pulling from extensive new research and interviews with figures such as Paul McCarthy, Bruce Nauman, and Rosamund Felsen—traces the important events in Jackson’s life, providing key historical context to Welchman’s interpretive text.

### About Hauser & Wirth Publishers

Artists’ voices, exceptional art, scholarship, design, and bookmaking are at the heart of Hauser & Wirth Publishers’ program, which has been helmed by Michaela Unterdörfer since 2005. Books are critical gateways

# HAUSER & WIRTH

to new ways of thinking and seeing; they provide vital, lasting records of artists' works and ideas and the discourse they inspire. This is why publishing has been a cornerstone of the gallery's activity since its founding and why Hauser & Wirth Publishers has grown to become a leading imprint for unique, object-like books that encourage an understanding and appreciation of modern and contemporary art. With the special access granted by artists to their writings and archives, Hauser & Wirth Publishers often brings new and overlooked aspects of an artist's creative practice into focus. Our backlist offers a robust program that comprises artists' books, artists' writings, biographies, monographs, surveys, exhibition catalogs, and collectors' perspectives.

Hauser & Wirth's publishing activity extends back to 1992, from where it steadily flourished through partnerships with reputable imprints such as Hatje Cantz, JRP|Ringier, Snoeck, Steidl, Thames & Hudson, and Yale University Press, before publishing independently under its own imprint. Based in Zurich and New York City, Hauser & Wirth Publishers commissions titles that we believe are keystone resources and references related to the artists represented by the gallery. Our titles are distributed worldwide via Distributed Art Publishers and Buchhandlung Walther König.

## **'Richard Jackson'**

Texts by John C. Welchman and Dagny Janss Corcoran

Book design: Brian Roettinger and Christine Jackson (WP&A)

English

Flexicover

241 x 279 mm

480 pages

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Film still of Richard Jackson creating 'Painted Monograph,' Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles Book & Printed Matter Lab, Produced by Dagny Corcoran, 17 February 2021  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Richard Jackson in front of 'Big Ideas (1000 Pictures),' Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Los Angeles CA, 1980  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth

Richard Jackson  
Painted Monograph  
2021  
Acrylic paint, book and pedestal  
102.9 x 68.6 x 43.8 cm / 40 1/2 x 27 x 17 1/4 in  
© Richard Jackson  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth  
Photo: Fredrik Nilsen

'Richard Jackson' Book Cover, Hauser & Wirth Publishers