

Robert Grosvenor

Bleibtreustraße 15/16, 10623 Berlin

8 January – 26 February 2022

Galerie Max Hetzler is pleased to present an exhibition with sculptures by **Robert Grosvenor** at Bleibtreustraße 15/16, his seventh solo exhibition with the gallery.

Since the mid-1960s, Robert Grosvenor has created a diverse oeuvre spanning sculpture, photography and drawing. The artist is especially known for his audacious sculptures and objects which straddle the line between art, engineering and architecture, and which he describes as “ideas that operate between floor and ceiling.”¹ Parallels have often been drawn between his work – which is simple and often geometric in character – and that of Minimalist figures. However, whilst Grosvenor was included in seminal exhibitions of the movement in the 1960s, he refutes Minimalism’s programmatic claims, and favours instead, a sensual directness. Due to the absence of a trademark form, material or concept in his practice, as well as an unwillingness to rationalise his works through language, Grosvenor’s artistic output remains elusive and hard to pin down.

In this exhibition, two pieces offer an insight into Grosvenor’s distinctive sculptural work. *Untitled*, 2014, a so-called hydroplane, consists of a variety of materials such as wood, fibreglass, aluminium and steel, and captivates through its futuristic appearance. Curator, Bob Nickas, describes it as “a boat that might have roared across the Salt Flats when it was submerged as Lake Bonneville some twenty thousand years ago”. He continues, “this is an utterly fantastic object, like nothing we’ve seen before. Its raised motor resembles a deadly, gnarly weapon, in distinct contrast to the soft tones of its wood body and surfboard-like wings.”²

The other work in the exhibition, *Untitled*, 2015-2019, a sci-fi-esque shape evocative of a boat, or futuristic car, seduces the viewer with its pristine, matte grey surface. Elevated from the ground by a white plinth, it seems to hover, in between mass and line, stillness and movement.

Aerodynamic forms recur in Grosvenor’s practice, and characterise pivotal works such as the gravity-defying *Tenerife* from 1966, now in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Recently, when asked about his inspiration for this work—a monumental, lacquered wing-like element which emerges from the ceiling—the artist responded: “I was specifically interested in the work’s height above the floor, and its relationship to somebody next to it.”³ Paradigmatic of Grosvenor’s interest in how a work engages with its environment, *Untitled*, 2015-2019, equally draws its power from the ludic tension it fosters between its form, the space, and the viewer, heightened by the sensuous character of the material.



Robert Grosvenor, *Untitled*, 2014
Photo: def image

¹ S. Øvstebø and R. Grosvenor, eds., *Robert Grosvenor*, exh. cat., Chicago: The Renaissance Society, 2017.

² B. Nickas, *Robert Grosvenor*, exh. cat., Paris/New York: Galerie Max Hetzler/Karma, p. 69.

³ R. Grosvenor and H. U. Obrist, *Hypervolume in Hyperspace*, in *Mousse Magazine*, no. 52, 2016.

Robert Grosvenor (*1937, New York) lives and works in East Patchogue. Solo exhibitions of Grosvenor's work have been held in international institutions, such as the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (2019 and 2021); The Renaissance Society, Chicago (2017); Fundação de Serralves, Porto (2005); The Arts Club, Chicago (2003); and Kunsthalle Bern (1992), among others.

Works by Robert Grosvenor are held in the collections of prominent museums including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Modern Art; New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

Further exhibitions and events:

4 November 2021 – 29 January 2022

Oehlen, Pendleton, Pope.L, Sillman

Goethestraße 2/3, 10623 Berlin

6 November 2021 – 29 January 2022

André Butzer

Rohe Milch

Potsdamer Straße 77-87, 10785 Berlin

15 December 2021 – 29 January 2022

Inge Mahn

Adventskranz mit balancierenden Stühlen

Window Gallery, Goethestraße 2/3, 10623 Berlin

14 January – 26 February 2022

Giulia Andreani

Kitchen Knife

Bleibtreustraße 45, 10623 Berlin

15 January – 26 February 2022

David Novros

57, rue du Temple, 75004 Paris

20 January – 26 February 2022

Karel Appel

41 Dover Street, London W1S 4NS

Sign up for Newsletter



Press contact:

Galerie Max Hetzler
Honor Westmacott
honor@maxhetzler.com
Berlin: +49 30 346 497 85-0

www.facebook.com/galeriemaxhetzler
www.instagram.com/galeriemaxhetzler
www.twitter.com/hetzlergallery