

Jonathan Monk

Falling Silver Clouds

30.08.2022
10.09.2022

MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique is delighted to present *Falling Silver Clouds*, by Jonathan Monk.

A highly polished, visibly crumpled rectangular silver balloon lulls afloat, mid-air, gracing the gallery's empty space. It appears to be on its way down to the floor as the helium gradually escapes its ethereal envelope.

But its lithe form is just an illusion: fixed onto the wall, Monk's *Silver Cloud* is in fact a high density polyurethane foam reproduction of Andy Warhol's iconic Mylar balloons that floated around his studio space, *The Factory*, in 1960's New York City.

Covered in aluminum from floor to ceiling, *The Factory* was the beating heart of New York's creative scene, where everyone from the Velvet Underground to Edie Sedgwick converged around Andy Warhol's magnetic persona to witness his next groundbreaking art trick.

For those familiar with Jonathan Monk, this is the newest example in his treatment of his cornerstone idea of "impossible originality". Speaking in 2009, Monk said:

Appropriation is something I have used or worked with in my art since starting art school in 1987. At this time (and still now) I realized that being original was almost impossible, so I tried using what was already available as source material for my own work.

Building on preexisting ideas, Monk thus offers his own - paradoxically original - version of past artworks. Warhol himself was the purveyor of art's infinite reproduction potential. Tackling the notions of "original" vs "copy" head on, they make these very notions superfluous.

Perhaps in an ultimate play on his own work method, *Falling Silver Clouds* also hints back to Monk's very own 2009 *Deflated Sculpture*, a series of 5 similarly polished stainless steel

sculptures representing Jeff Koons' iconic balloon rabbit in various stages of collapse.

As if freezing them in time in the midst of their own undoing - somehow even reminiscent of Pompeii's petrified figures, Monk anchors the balloons' ephemeral quality into our present, solidifying them to project them into the future.

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Jonathan Monk (b. 1969) was born in Leicester and now lives and works in Berlin. Jonathan Monk holds a BFA from Leicester Polytechnic (1988) and an MFA from Glasgow School of Art (1991). Solo exhibitions include Librairie Yvon Lambert (2022), CCA Tel Aviv, Israel (2019), The Gallery at De Montford University Leicester, England (2017), Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel/Muttenz, Switzerland (2016), CAN Neuchâtel, Switzerland (2015), IMMA Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland (2014), Centro De Arte Contemporaneo (CAC) Malaga, Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria, (2013), W139, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2011), Artpace, San Antonio, Texas, USA (2009), Palais de Tokyo and Musee d'Art Moderne, Paris (2008), Kunstverein Hannover (2006), Institute of Contemporary Art, London (2005), Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf and The Swiss Institute, New York, USA (2003).

His work has been featured in many group exhibitions, including TRAIN.ZUG.TRENO.TREN, Mudac, Lausanne, Switzerland (2022), Obayashi Collection Self-History, WHAT Museum, Warehouse Terrada, Tokyo, Japan (2021), STUDIO, Berghain, Berlin, Germany (2020), Points de Rencontres, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2019), The Transported Man, MSU Broad, Michigan State University, USA (2017), Manifesta 11, Zurich, Switzerland (2016) More Konzeption Conception Now, Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany, Black Sun, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Switzerland, Every Inclusion Is An Exclusion Of Other Possibilities II - SALT, Istanbul, Turkey (2015), Pinault Collection at Grimaldi Forum, Monaco (2014), There are Other Routes than Ours, Tamayo Contemporary Art Museum, Mexico (2013), When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA (2012), the 50th and 53rd Venice Biennales (2003, 2009), Berlin Biennale (2001) and Taipei Biennial (2000).

Artworks

Jonathan Monk
Falling Silver Cloud II, 2022
 High density polyurethane foam, chrome laquer, metal
 100 × 64 × 47 cm / 39 3/8 × 25 1/6 × 18 1/2 inches

Jonathan Monk
Falling Silver Cloud III, 2022
 High density polyurethane foam, chrome laquer, metal
 86 × 83.3 × 56.3 cm / 33 5/6 × 32 5/6 × 22 1/6 inches