

## Rudolf Stingel

62 Kingly Street W1

31 October – 17 December 2022

For his seventh solo exhibition at Sadie Coles HQ, Rudolf Stingel presents three oil paintings at the Kingly Street gallery in Soho.

Rudolf Stingel has over the course of his four decade career continuously experimented with painting as both medium and subject, consciously positioning it as a metaphor through which to probe the perceptions of image and the conventional boundaries of what constitutes art. Throughout photorealism has endured as an integral part of his painting oeuvre; combining his inherently process based and conceptually rigorous approach. Drawing on pre-existing imagery, often filtered through multiple degrees of reproduction, Stingel employs a scrupulous and exacting method to meticulously recreate an image, as well as the subtle and varying degrees of physical degradation – its scuffs, folds and smattered colour defects – generating a self-reflexive image of an image. Through this objective process Stingel establishes an authorial distancing, destabilising the presupposed expectations of authenticity and facsimile, context and origin; and in so doing subversively invokes a renewed encounter of the image.



Made in 2015, the works on view depict three near identical iterations of a ghost-like marionette, replicated precisely in oil paint across three canvases. Dramatically amplified on a monumental scale, the figures are ghoulish spectres, recalling the art historical symbolism of the *memento mori*. The artist's exact and literal rendering of the original photographic image is at odds with the timeworn patina of the surfaces, consequentially subjected to the paint splatters and random marks of the studio floor that further exaggerates the sense of time and decay. When viewed in close up, the subject appears to dissolve into textured abstraction – elusive and indeterminate – investing the scene with a double edged mood of eeriness and nostalgia, invoking a charged synthesis between graphic content and painterly process.

Rudolf Stingel (b. 1956, Merano, Italy) has exhibited internationally, with major solo shows including those at Fondation Beyeler, Basel (2019); Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2013); Secession, Vienna (2012); *LIVE* at the Neue National Galerie, Berlin (2010); and an extensive retrospective at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York ( both 2007). Other significant solo shows include those at the Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2004) and the Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Trento (2001). His work has featured in group shows such as *Dancing with Myself*, Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy (2019); *Curated By (?)*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2016); *Picasso Mania*, Le Grand Palais, Paris (2015); *NYC: 1993*, New Museum, New York (2013); *Lifelike*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2012); *Mapping the Studio: Artists from the François Pinault Collection*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2009); *Day for Night: Whitney Biennial 2006*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and *Universal Experience: Art, Life, and the Tourist's Eye*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2005, travelling to the Hayward Gallery, London). His work was included in the 2003 and 1999 Venice Biennales. Rudolf Stingel lives and works in New York and Merano, Italy.

For further information please contact the gallery at +44 (0)20 7493 8611 or [press@sadiecoles.com](mailto:press@sadiecoles.com)

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