

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Ugo Rondinone

bright light shining

September 14 – November 9, 2023

Opening Reception: September 14, 6pm – 8pm

530 West 21 Street

New York

Gladstone Gallery is pleased to announce *bright light shining*, an exhibition by Ugo Rondinone. For this show, the artist presents new, large-scale sculptures along with an interconnected body of work, which act as building blocks of the perfect storm. In the center of the exhibition are three massive lightning strikes that forcefully punctuate the space. Painted in bright, dayglo yellow, the bronze *light* sculptures depict the crooked and rhythmic lines that form strikes of lightning, creating tangible and static representations of these miraculous experiences and awe-inspiring phenomena. A hung *cloud* relief created with sand, gravel, and concrete accompanies the *light* sculptures in the artist's conjuring of environmental marvels. Using heavy elements borne directly from the earth, Rondinone suggests the interconnectedness of the materials that comprise both land and sky. As the viewer moves around the exhibition, each form continually changes based on the viewer's vantage point. The conscientious selection of materiality in the works empowers a greater understanding of Rondinone's experiential presentation. Connected here by towering lightning strikes and a weighty cloud, Rondinone freezes an inexplicable moment in time that captures the excitement, fear, and impending change brought on by environmental happenings, seemingly out of our control.

Often employing natural forms and materials in his work, Rondinone's examination of nature through painting, drawing, and sculpture alludes to deep, conceptual conversations surrounding the ways in which humans connect to their environments and the elements that comprise them. Lightning bolts, which we ordinarily experience as flashes of light in a storm, also connect to Rondinone's interest in the earthly realm and the sublime, as seen in German Romanticism and the works of Caspar David Friedrich, whom he has often made references to in his practice. Lightning forms a bridge between the earthly realm and the divine, suggesting the possibility of transcending the physical world and everyday life. Rondinone's *light* sculptures further recall other natural forms in our everyday life, including inverted branches or the roots of a tree. As such, Rondinone places the quotidian as nothing short of extraordinary. As with the artist's colored mountain and *nuns + monks* sculptures, which similarly feature natural forms painted in bright neon colors, the vivid, artificial coloration of these works creates a stunning contrast and serves to evoke an altogether contemporary version of the sublime. Each composition emphasizes temporality and the fleeting passage of time, while simultaneously complicating our conceptions of impermanence and materiality.

Concurrent to the presentation at Gladstone, Rondinone will have two exhibitions in New York at Journal Gallery (September 8 – September 21, 2023) and Martos Gallery (September 14 – October 21, 2023).

Ugo Rondinone (b. 1964, Brunnen, Switzerland) studied at the Universität für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna before moving to New York in 1997 where he currently lives and works. His work has been the subject of solo presentations at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris (2003); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2006); Art Institute of Chicago (2013); Rockbund Art Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2016), MACRO, Rome (2016); Carre D'Art, Nimes (2016); Berkeley Art Museum (2017); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2017); Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2017); Belvedere, Vienna (2021); Tamayo Museum, Mexico City (2022); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2022); Petit Palais, Paris (2022); Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista di Venezia, Venice (2022); The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva (2023); Gladstone Gallery, Brussels (2023); Parrish Museum, New York (2023); Städel Museum (2023); Storm King Art Center, New York (2023). In November, he will have a solo exhibitions at Fosun Foundation in Shanghai and a special installation at Phillips Collection, Washington.

For further information, please contact press@gladstonegallery.com

New York gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm

Brussels gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm and Saturday, 12pm-8pm

Seoul gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm