

GAGOSIAN

Inspired by Poetry, New Works by Edmund de Waal to Be Exhibited in New York

this must be the place Opens on September 13 at 541 West 24th Street



Edmund de Waal, *a part of speech*, 2023, porcelain, silver, Cor-Ten steel, tin, aluminum, and glass, in 2 parts, overall: 86 5/8 × 74 7/8 × 7 7/8 inches (220 × 190 × 20 cm) © Edmund de Waal. Photo: Alzbeta Jaresova

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NEW YORK, August 2, 2023—Gagosian is pleased to announce a major exhibition of new works by Edmund de Waal, *this must be the place*, opening at 541 West 24th Street on September 13, 2023.

The exhibition is the internationally acclaimed artist and writer’s first with Gagosian in New York in a decade and follows *elective affinities* at the Frick Collection, New York (2019), and *The Hare with Amber Eyes* at the Jewish Museum, New York (2021–22), which presented different aspects of his wide-ranging practice.

this must be the place features wheel-thrown porcelain vessels, both black and white, presented in wall-mounted vitrines. De Waal juxtaposes the cylindrical vessels and bowls with fine porcelain tiles, blocks of steel, silver, and stone, some of which are inscribed with handwritten text. In their compositions and spacing, these arrangements recall books on a shelf, stanzas of poems, or the notes and rests of musical notation.

De Waal relates: “For the last two years my studio has been full of silver, steel, marble, and porcelain. This new body of work is about place—where things come from, where they belong, what we remember and pass on. The materials echo places. I use porcelain clay from Limoges but turn it black with oxides and inscribe it with remembered poetry. I use marble from Kilkenny and push folded sheets of silver into crevices like prayers into a wall. The work is full of fragments, scraps of silver on the rims of bowls, poems, music, echoes of people that matter to me and the places where they lived. These sculptures are new places.”

In *this must be the place*, de Waal engages with materiality, memory, and diaspora. Titled with allusions to verses by John Milton and Wallace Stevens, the vertical black vitrines contain dark porcelain vessels placed alongside tiles and blocks of silver, marble, and Cor-Ten steel. Dedicated to Emily Dickinson, six *Letters to Amherst* works (2023) include compositions in primarily unglazed porcelain, gold leaf, and alabaster arrayed within horizontal white vitrines.

De Waal has also made new stone benches carved from Kilkenny marble, a fine-grained sedimentary rock. These monolithic benches incorporate silver, inscribed, folded like sheets of paper, and embedded in the surface of the benches, echoing the ritual placement of written prayers into Jerusalem’s Western Wall.

this must be the place is complemented by the presentation of *to light, and then return*— at Gagosian’s gallery at 976 Madison Avenue, New York, from September 14 to October 28, 2023. This exhibition features sculptures by de Waal and platinum prints and tintypes by Sally Mann that each artist created in response to the other’s work.

Edmund de Waal was born in 1964 in Nottingham, England, and lives and works in London. Public collections include the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford, England; Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, England; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Germany; Jewish Museum, Berlin; Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Exhibitions include *On White: Porcelain Stories from the Fitzwilliam*, Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, England (2013–14); *white: a project by Edmund de Waal*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2015–16); *During the Night*, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna (2016–17); *white island*, Museu d’Art Contemporani d’Eivissa, Ibiza, Spain (2018); *–one way or other–*, Schindler House, Los Angeles (2018–19); *elective affinities*, Frick Collection, New York (2019); *psalm*, Museo Ebraico and Ateneo Veneto, Venice (2019); *Lettres à Camondo*, Musée Nissim de Camondo, Paris (2021–22); and *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, Jewish Museum, New York (2021–22).

De Waal is also renowned for his family memoir, *The Hare with Amber Eyes* (2010), which won the RSL Ondaatje Prize and the Costa Biography Award, among others, and has been translated into over thirty languages. Other titles include *Bernard Leach* (1997), *The White Road* (2015), and *Letters to Camondo* (2021). In 2015, de Waal was awarded the Windham-Campbell Prize for Nonfiction by Yale University. In 2021, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for Services to the Arts. He will receive the Isamu Noguchi Award on September 12, 2023, together with Theaster Gates and Hanya Yanagihara.

#EdmunddeWaal

EDMUND DE WAAL

this must be the place

Opening reception: Wednesday, September 13, 6–8pm

September 13–October 28, 2023

541 West 24th Street, New York

Press

Gagosian

press@gagosian.com

Hallie Freer

hfreer@gagosian.com

+1 212 744 2313

Polskin Arts

Meagan Jones

meagan.jones@finnpartners.com

+1 212 593 6485