

# GAGOSIAN

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Gagosian to Present Fish Lamp Sculptures and Works on Paper by Frank Gehry

*Ruminations* Opens in New York on February 8, 2024

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Frank Gehry, *Untitled (Rust and Blue Fish)*, 2022, pen and watercolor on paper, 10 1/2 × 13 3/4 inches (26.7 × 34.9 cm)  
© Frank O. Gehry. Photo: Jeff McLane

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*I decided the fish was the model for the future of architecture because it expressed sculptural movement.*  
—Frank Gehry

**NEW YORK, February 5, 2024**—Gagosian is pleased to announce *Ruminations*, an exhibition of new sculptures and works on paper by Frank Gehry, opening at the gallery’s 976 Madison Avenue location on February 8, 2024. *Ruminations* features large-scale elaborations on objects from Gehry’s *Fish Lamps* sculpture series (1984–86 and 2012–), a *Crocodile Lamp* sculpture, and several works on paper that have not previously been seen in New York.

The sculptures, several of which will be visible from the street on Madison Avenue, are internally illuminated forms in copper and Formica; one copper fish is suspended from the ceiling of the gallery’s first room, in which *Untitled (Black Crocodile New York)* (2023) is also on view. Two further freestanding clusters are displayed on heavy, handmade wooden bases in the second space alongside another large hanging fish. While Gehry’s fish sculptures are self-contained works, the “perfect form” of the ancient creature that they emulate reappears throughout his architectural oeuvre, lending itself to the undulating profiles of buildings such as 2003’s Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles; Guggenheim Bilbao (1997); and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi (opening 2025). The leaflike scales on the copper fish represent a new motif inspired by a hike that Gehry took with his granddaughter.

Gehry is celebrated for groundbreaking architectural designs in which he pursues a fascination with primal, natural forms, conveying his sense that postmodernist architecture limited itself by confining its points of reference to the discipline's own history; looking further, he seeks to escape that sentimental tendency. He has also produced significant bodies of sculpture and furniture, from *Easy Edges* (1969–73) and *Experimental Edges* (1979–82)—chairs and tables made from corrugated cardboard—to bentwood furniture designed for Knoll (1989–92). The *Fish Lamps* series evolved from a 1983 commission from the Formica Corporation to make use of their ColorCore plastic laminate. Gehry was inspired by the material's scalelike appearance to produce piscine forms featuring ColorCore fragments affixed to molded wire armatures.

In *Crocodile Lamp*, Gehry reiterates a fascination with animals that has also found expression in *Bear with Us* (2014), a life-size stainless-steel sculpture now in the sculpture garden of the New Orleans Museum of Art, and an equine sculpture produced for Cheval Blanc in Paris. A linked interest in the natural landscape is reflected in the steel tapestry he created for the façade of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, DC, in 2020. Also included in *Ruminations* are several small works in ink, watercolor, and acrylic on paper. In these loose, joyful drawings, Gehry expresses the energetic motion of the piscine form in organic networks of black line and patches of liquid color that resonate with his architectural sketches and studies.

**Frank Gehry** was born in 1929 in Toronto, and lives and works in Los Angeles. Collections include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain; and Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Ultimo, Australia. Solo exhibitions include *Frank Gehry, Architect*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2001); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2014); and Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2015). Awards include the Pritzker Architecture Prize (1989), National Medal of Arts (1998), and Lifetime Achievement Award from Americans for the Arts (2000). Gehry's buildings include the Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany (1989); Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain (1997); Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles (2003); Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, University of Technology Sydney (2014); Facebook headquarters, Menlo Park, CA (2015); Luma / Parc des Ateliers, Arles, France (2021); Philadelphia Museum of Art (2021); Children's Institute Inc. Center, Watts Campus, Los Angeles; and Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) Center, Inglewood, CA (2021).

A campaigner for urban equity and social justice, Gehry is currently involved with several philanthropic projects, including the renovation of the Homeless Veterans Transitional Housing building in West Los Angeles; the LA River Ecosystem Restoration Project; and Turnaround Arts, a school reform effort that transforms priority schools through the strategic use of the arts.

#FrankGehry

## **FRANK GEHRY**

*Ruminations*

Opening reception: Thursday, February 8, 6–8pm

February 8–April 6, 2024

976 Madison Avenue, New York

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## **Press**

**Gagosian** | [press@gagosian.com](mailto:press@gagosian.com)

Hallie Freer | [hfreer@gagosian.com](mailto:hfreer@gagosian.com) | +1 212 744 2313

## **Polskin Arts**

Meagan Jones | [meagan.jones@finnpartners.com](mailto:meagan.jones@finnpartners.com) | +1 212 593 6485