



55 South Audley Street
London W1K 2QH

t +44 (0) 20 72872005
london@massimodecarlo.com
www.massimodecarlo.com

Rob Pruitt
THE SUICIDE PAINTINGS
October 14 – November 30, 2013

Massimo De Carlo gallery in London inaugurates its new season with *The Suicide Paintings* by American artist Rob Pruitt. Pruitt in his third show at Massimo De Carlo presents new paintings that explore infinite space and blankness, purity and pollution, and optimism and desperation. The work in the show represents a culmination of previous bodies of work, from his fountains to face paintings. While so much of Pruitt's previous work has dealt with cultural subject matter, in this new body of work, content has been drained, leaving only a psychological and emotional residue.

In the new paintings, two gradient fields of colour are juxtaposed, creating a picture within a frame. The images suggest both heavenly and hellish vistas, evoking everything from the clouds in a Botticelli painting to the screensaver on an iPad. While the gradient fields suggest depictions of space and the changing times of day, they are also a visual metaphor for transitioning psychological states.

Composing a full room installation, a number of chromed TV Sets: having become useless as means of information and entertainment, replaced by flat screen TVs, these objects from the 80s and the 90s survive through their shape, reconstructed with a glamorous and glittery patina. Even this body of works refers to the classics: these TV sets deliver a strong sense of nostalgia.

These new sculptures are standing on hundreds and hundreds of black and white cubes. Part sculptures themselves, and part plinths for the other works in the show, these cubes are configuring a new modular system of exhibiting Rob Pruitt's sculptures through a new radical, pixelated signature pedestal. These cubes can even take the form of a new floor for one of the rooms in the basement of the gallery, as if Carl Andre had suddenly turned digital.

ROB PRUITT

Rob Pruitt was born in 1964 in Washington, D.C. Rob Pruitt lives and works in New York. Pruitt has had solo exhibition in prominent institutions such as: *Rob Pruitt: An American Folk Artist*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2013); *History of the World*, Kunstverein Freiburg (2012); *ROB PRUITT*, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas (2011); *The Andy Monument*, Public Art Fund, New York (2011); *Davos Dilemma*, American Academy in Rome, Roma (2008); *Le Consortium*, Dijon (2002). Rob Pruitt is the founder and organizer of the *Rob Pruitt Annual Art Awards*, an annual prize hosted by the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

HARD FACTS

Massimo De Carlo, London
55 South Audley Street
London W1K 2QH
From October 14 until November 30, 2013
Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am – 6.00pm
Opening: Monday October 14th 2013, from 6.00pm

For further information and materials:
Press Office, Massimo De Carlo
T. +39 02 70003987 – T. +44 (0) 2072872005
press@massimodecarlo.com
www.massimodecarlo.com