

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

February 28, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY
522 WEST 21ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10011
GALLERY HOURS:

T. 212.741.1717
F. 212.741.0006
Tue–Sat: 10:00am–6:00pm



RUDOLF STINGEL

Tuesday, March 4–Saturday, April 19, 2014

Opening reception: Tuesday, March 4th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm

Gagosian New York is pleased to present a new exhibition by Rudolf Stingel. This will be the first U.S. presentation of pivotal works in which Stingel engages with the genre of landscape painting. Several of these works were previously exhibited in “Rudolf Stingel. LIVE” at Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin in 2010.

Over the past twenty years, Stingel has examined the nature of memory while expanding the scope and definition of painting. Echoing Albrecht Dürer’s *Painter’s Manual* of the sixteenth century, Stingel produced *Instructions* in 1989, a booklet illustrating how to create a Rudolf Stingel painting, which anticipated two decades of his investigation into the relationship between artist and artwork. In the early 1990s, he covered the walls and floors of exhibition spaces with broadloom carpet, transforming architecture into monochrome surface and texture. Later he covered gallery walls with metallic insulation board that viewers could mark and inscribe at will. Accumulating all manner of compulsive graffiti over the course of time, this material was later sectioned to form autonomous panel works, exuberantly human and anonymous. In a further turn of the screw, he cast these panels in copper and gold. Beginning in 2005, Stingel created a series of large self-portraits, carefully rendered in grayscale, based on photographs of himself at various stages of his life. These were shown together with vast abstract canvases of markings constituted solely by the traces of time and action in the studio.

Stingel has sourced vintage black-and-white photographs of his birthplace, Merano, in the Tyrolean Alps, as the starting point for a series of immense landscape paintings measuring up to fifteen feet in width. Every nuance is meticulously recorded, from the steely, snowy peaks that appear in the photographs to the creased and discolored surfaces of the photographs themselves. Although the subject recalls the German Romantic tradition, such detectable influences are simply vehicles for Stingel’s broader concerns with memory and decline. Conflating a subject that is highly autobiographical with a conversely passive process, he has left some of the finished paintings on the studio floor to collect incidental scuffs and debris. In *Untitled* (2010), the calculated photorealism of the scene is desecrated by white spatters interrupting the panoramic grayscale mountainscape under a silver sky. The monumental scale, the precise replication of the faded photographic grays, and the inadvertent markings imbue the paintings with a cinematic aura that also evokes Luis Trenker’s films of the 1930s that were set in the same mountains. Layering deliberate process, chance, and traces of autobiography, Stingel represents through painting the ineluctable transformation of appearances over time.

(Continue to page 2)

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

Rudolf Stingel was born in 1956 in Merano, Italy. Recent solo exhibitions include Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Trento, Italy (2001); Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2004); Inverleith House, Edinburgh (2006); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2007, traveled to Whitney Museum of American Art, New York); Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2010); and Wiener Secession (2012). His work was included in the Biennale di Venezia (1993, 2003); "Day for Night: Whitney Biennial," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2006); "Life on Mars: 55th Carnegie International," Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2008); and "Mapping the Studio: Artists from the Francois Pinault Collection," Punta della Dogana and Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2009).

"Rudolf Stingel," a major exhibition in which the entire Palazzo Grassi in Venice was devoted to Stingel's work, was on view from April 2013 to January 2014.

Stingel lives and works in New York City and Merano, Italy.

For further information please contact the gallery at newyork@gagosian.com or at +1.212.741.1717. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

Press Enquiries

Blue Medium, Inc.

T. +1.212.675.1800

www.bluemedium.com

Contact: Deirdre Maher

E. deirdre@bluemedium.com

Contact: Andy Ptaschinski

E. andy@bluemedium.com

Please join the conversation with Gagosian Gallery on Twitter (@GagosianNY), Facebook (@GagosianGallery), Google+ (@Gagosian Gallery), Instagram (@gagosiangallery), and Tumblr (@GagosianGallery) via the hashtag #RudolfStingel.

Image: *Untitled*, 2010, oil on canvas, 132 x 180 3/4 inches (335.3 x 459 cm)

Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.

522 WEST 21ST STREET NEW YORK NY 10011 T. 212 741 1717 F. 212 741 0006

NEWYORK@GAGOSIAN.COM WWW.GAGOSIAN.COM