

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

800, AVENUE DE L'EUROPE

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Tue-Sat 11:00am-7:00pm and by appointment



AN AMERICAN IN PARIS: WORKS FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION

Tuesday, 28 January–Saturday, 3 May 2014

Opening reception: Saturday, January 25th, from 2:00 to 6:00pm

Gagosian Paris is pleased to present “An American in Paris: Works from a Private Collection.”

From Andy Warhol's *Campbell's Black Bean Soup* of 1962 to Jeff Koons' *Hole III* of 2008, the exhibition presents a panorama of the avant-garde of the past half century. This selection from a bold and discerning American collection highlights pivotal, often large-scale works from six contemporary artists who have persistently engaged unexpected subject matter through uncommon media. Richard Prince's *The Housewife and the Grocer* (1988)—pink text on a matte gold background—is an archetypal work from his deadpan *Joke* series; the crusted surface of a black canvas by Damien Hirst is, upon closer scrutiny, comprised by thousands of dead flies. Cy Twombly's early graphite on canvas scrawl, *Untitled (Lexington, Virginia)* (1959), holds impulsive expression and formal restraint in perfect balance, while large-scale canvases from the late *Bacchus* series course with visceral red loops and drips. Warhol's *Mona Lisa Four Times* (1978) points to the endless reproducibility of masterpieces, and a painting of over ten meters transforms a readymade camouflage pattern into pop-abstraction. The exhibition also provides varied approaches to shared subject matter; for example, Twombly's immense *Rose* painting provides a gestural counterpart to Warhol's flat, affectless *Flowers*.

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Some recent sculptures convey the technical, material, and philosophical diversity at play in three-dimensional form. *Forgotten Love* (2007), Hirst's massive reimagining of a medicine cabinet, displays a multitude of jewel-like pills meticulously fabricated from resin, an imposing reminder of the increasing reliance on supplements. Urs Fischer's reflections on mortality take the form of a giant candle—a lifelike figure made entirely of a wax mixture, fitted with wicks and lit. Expanding on his enduring fascination with childhood experiences and childlike consciousness, Koons' *Balloon Swan (Red)* (2006) reconceives a child's party favor as a mesmerizing monumental form. With its impressive scale, fluid lines, and immaculate, mirror-like surface, the stainless steel sculpture achieves a perfect tension between representation and abstraction. A sampling of seven artists' outsize innovations in painting and sculpture since the Pop era, the works on view have been brought together by a patron's preference for fierce originality.

For further inquiries please contact the gallery at paris@gagosian.com or at +33.1.48.16.16.47. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

Press Enquiries

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Image: JEFF KOONS, *Balloon Swan (Red)*, 2006, high chromium stainless steel with transparent color coating, 138 x 119 x 94 inches (350.5 x 302.3 x 238.8 cm), 1 of 5 unique versions © Jeff Koons

Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.

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