

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Tue-Sat 11am-7pm



HOWARD HODGKIN

June 13 – August 9, 2014

Press preview : Friday, June 13, 5-6pm

Opening reception : Friday, June 13 6-8pm

« I am a representational painter, but not a painter of appearances. I paint representational pictures of emotional situations. »

--Howard Hodgkin

Gagosian is pleased to present an exhibition of recent paintings by Howard Hodgkin. This will be Hodgkin's first solo exhibition in Paris, following recent critically acclaimed exhibitions at Gagosian Rome (2013) and Gagosian New York (2011).

Exploring the very nature of painting as both cultivated language and sheer expression, Hodgkin disregards the classical polarities of past and present, abstraction and representation, surface and frame. Assertive, compressed gestures, a lush palette, and the dynamic interchange of light and dark are all traits of his distinctive style. Hodgkin incorporates the frame as part of the painted surface, conveying unadulterated and deliberate expressions that maintain a strong sense of objecthood. With their maximalist brushstrokes and saturated colors, intimately scaled paintings appear jewel-like, while larger works are opulent and theatrical.

Embracing spontaneity and directness in equal measure to processes of reflection and capitulation, Hodgkin may take one year to prepare to execute his first brushstroke; the seemingly informal, urgent quality of his paintings belies the fact that most have been painted, reconsidered, and re-painted. The works convey the relationship between hand, eye, and memory that drives their process, visual structure, and emotional temperature.

In each painting, Hodgkin's subject is a presence that is sensed rather than apprehended, and remains allusive and fragmentary. New works produced between London, Normandy, and Bombay represent vibrant traces of location and experience--transcriptions of everyday encounters and memories into layered, richly colored textures. While Ganges (2005-13) evokes the rapid motion of the great river, it

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also resonates with the mythological implications of its central place in Indian culture as the vehicle of life, and a source of comfort in death. Indian Waves (2013-14) features overlapping brushstrokes, while bare spaces emphasize the work's physical reality as oil paint on a wooden panel. The panel and frame of Out of the Window, Bombay (2012-14) are overwhelmed by fluorescent spots like colored petals; Autumn in Bombay (2010-14) is represented in pervasive marks of red, orange, yellow, and black.

Enriching initial impressions through a gradual process of intimate reflection, Hodgkin creates paintings which are both composed, autonomous wholes and synecdoches of a greater aesthetic reality beyond the frame.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue including texts by Julian Barnes, James Fenton, and Susan Sontag, and a discussion of Hodgkin's work between Jean-Pierre Criqui and Jeff Wall.

Howard Hodgkin was born in London in 1932. He attended Camberwell School of Art and the Bath Academy of Art, Corsham. Solo museum exhibitions include "Paintings 1975-1995" Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (1995, traveled to Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; Kunstverein Düsseldorf; and Hayward Gallery, London); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2006, traveled to Tate Britain, London; and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid); "Paintings: 1992-2007" Yale Center for British Art, New Haven (2007, traveled to Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge); "Time and Place, 2001-2010" Museum of Modern Art Oxford (2010, traveled to De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg, The Netherlands; and San Diego Museum of Art); and "Howard Hodgkin" Fondation Bemberg, Toulouse, France (2013).

Hodgkin lives and works in London.

Press Enquiries

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