

HAUSER & WIRTH

Press Release

Passing Leap Group Exhibition

Hauser & Wirth New York, 69th Street

25 June – 31 July 2015

Opening: Thursday 25 June 2015, 6 – 9 pm



New York... Beginning 25 June 2015, Hauser & Wirth is pleased to present 'Passing Leap', a group exhibition featuring works by Sebastian Black, John Houck, Shana Lutker, Dave McDermott, Brian O'Doherty, Barbara Probst, Sara VanDerBeek, Claudia Wieser, and Haegue Yang.

On view through 31 July, the exhibition takes its title from the name of a complex trapeze trick. A 'passing leap' is a manoeuvre of great precision and skill, culminating in a dynamic moment in which an aerialist's perspective is flipped, time is suspended, and the laws of physics seem to be broken. The artists included in 'Passing Leap' at Hauser & Wirth are connected by a specific interest in challenging the conventional relationship between viewer and artwork. They collapse constraints of time and space in order to suggest alternative realities, environments, and realms of perception. In 'Passing Leap' the viewer is invited to become a participant – to help resolve open-ended narratives, distorted perspectives, spotty memories, and false histories.

Painter and sculptor **Sebastian Black** is best known for his Puppy Paintings, a series of paintings that render droopy dog faces with long ears in fragmented abstract shapes with monochromatic palettes. Cubist forms create a Rorschach-like illusion of a female nude or a rolling landscape. The titles of these four paintings reiterate Black's interest in verbal play and visual unreliability: 'Ekphrasis', meaning 'a description of a work of art', and 'galimatias', aka 'gobbledygook.'

John Houck's work re-imagines Antonioni's classic film 'Blowup', in which the protagonist discovers an unexpected story hiding in the periphery of his own photographs. Houck has hacked film-editing and facial recognition software to refocus the film frame and guide the viewer's attention toward an unnoticed narrative in an iconic film about the fallacy of visual evidence.

HAUSER & WIRTH

In '#Research (Chapter One)' (2015) and '#Research (Chapter Three)' (2015), **Shana Lutker** continues her investigation of specific fistfights that took place between key members of the Surrealist group. Through extensive research, she both collects and creates evidence for these histories, balancing upon the line between objectivity and subjectivity. Lutker's work recalls crime scene evidence boards, and the viewer is left to identify and piece together the relevant details of a story.

Dave McDermott's new paintings adapt different themes and plots from literature, cinema, and history to create snapshots of a nonlinear and indefinable space. McDermott's faintly outlined characters are archetypes at once familiar and obscure, create uncertain access points to new narratives.

Brian O'Doherty's installations juxtapose geometric wall paintings with rope – like a line drawing in space, the rope is placed to distort perspectives as the viewer moves. These perspectival interventions deconstruct the gallery space in which they are situated. O'Doherty's works give form to the argument of his noted essay 'Inside the White Cube' (1956): the white walls of a gallery are charged with modernist design and history, and are anything but antiseptic.



Barbara Probst's work subverts the single frame in photography to expand the finite moment captured in an image. By using a radio-controlled shutter release, Probst is able to construct multiple vantage points on a single scene, dissecting the split second into many simultaneous narratives.

Sara VanDerBeek's new series of in-the-studio photographs expand upon her interests in ancient artifacts and contemporary cities to create dreamlike images of ambiguous times and places. These works layer two images within a frame to create a shallow relief that plays against the two-dimensional photograph. The still-lives are closely cropped then cut and wrapped to create ephemeral abstractions, with the photograph acting as hybrid of image and object.

Claudia Wieser's sculptures, works on paper, wallpaper, and mirrored panels create a mystical environment of whimsy and play. In 'Passing Leap', Wieser's installation is a meditation on geometric abstraction, art history, architecture, and film. While contemplating Wieser's precise geometries and elemental forms, the viewer might be surprised to encounter larger philosophical and spiritual questions in her seemingly austere installation.

HAUSER & WIRTH

Haegue Yang explores the everyday object as a starting point for abstract compositions. 'Dress Vehicle – Square Hunter' (2011), comes from a series of sculptures made of venetian blinds. Parallel blinds manipulate the viewer's sight by playing with light and transparency. In 'Wild in Aspen: Celestial Martial Plan' (2011), banal household objects seem to have an inner spiritual life. In both works, the threshold between interior and exterior is called into question.



For additional information, please contact:

Andrea Schwan, Andrea Schwan Inc., info@andreaschwan.com, +1 917 371 5023

Press Contact:

Andrea Schwan, Andrea Schwan Inc.
info@andreaschwan.com
+1 917 371 5023

Hauser & Wirth

32 East 69th Street
New York NY 10021

Gallery hours:

Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm

www.hauserwirth.info

[#hauserwirth](https://twitter.com/hauserwirth)

Copyright and Courtesy Credits:

Sebastian Black
Ekphrasis galimatias 1
2015
Oil on canvas
45.1 x 61 cm / 18 x 24 in
Courtesy the artist, CLEARING Gallery
and Hauser & Wirth
Photo: JSP Art Photography

Brian O'Doherty
Rope Drawing #123: Orange Crush (detail)
2014
Acrylic paint, rope
Dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist, Simone Subal Gallery
/ P and Hauser & Wirth

Dave McDermott
The Longest Drawing
2015
Oil, linen, marine varnish, yarn on panel
190.5 x 160 cm / 75 x 63 in
Courtesy the artist, Brennan & Griffin
and Hauser & Wirth

Haegue Yang

Wild in Aspen: Celestial Martial Plan
2011
Four-way straight-arm clothing rack (chrome)
on casters with nine arms, light bulbs (frosted),
electric cable, cleaning sponge, crystal bead
necklace, pipe cleaners, sea shells, bungee
cord, bells, safety pins, and driftwood
200 x 106.7 x 114.3 cm / 78 3/4 x 42 x 45 in
Courtesy the artist, Greene Naftali
and Hauser & Wirth

All images: © the artist