

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

Michel Majerus

November 21, 2015 – January 9, 2016

Opening: Saturday, November 21, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Matthew Marks is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by **Michel Majerus** in his galleries at 1062 North Orange Grove Avenue and 7818 Santa Monica Boulevard in Los Angeles. Featuring nine works made between 1996 and 2002, this is the artist's first one-person exhibition in Los Angeles.

Born in Luxembourg, Majerus lived and worked in Berlin until a 2002 plane crash tragically ended his life at the age of thirty-five. Majerus's work often features text and graphics sampled from a diverse range of sources. The exhibition's largest work, *overdose* (1997), presents a conglomeration of brightly-colored graphics on a monumental scale, depicting laundry detergent packaging, an ice cream wrapper, a club flyer, and Woody from the animated film *Toy Story*, a recurring character in Majerus's work. Painted on fifteen panels, *overdose* is nearly sixteen feet tall by twenty-three feet wide, filling a wall of the gallery from floor to ceiling.

MoM Block Nr. 56 (1999) includes a reproduction of a painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat and Andy Warhol, itself a blend of sampled graphics and gestural brushwork. By adding his own strokes, Majerus has transformed Basquiat and Warhol's painting into an irreverent three-part collaboration.

From 2000 to 2001 Majerus lived in Los Angeles for a year. One of the paintings he made here, *pornography needs you* (2001), is included in the exhibition. On the nearly ten-by-eleven-foot canvas, a handful of five-pointed stars, like those on the American flag or the Hollywood Walk of Fame, accompanies the titular phrase as it tips down and over the painting's bottom edge.

Michel Majerus's work was the subject of a mid-career retrospective at Kunsthalle Basel in 1996. At the 1999 Venice Biennale, Majerus designed a mural for the facade of the Italian Pavilion, and during the German National elections of 2002 he covered the Brandenburg Gate with a life-size photo of a public-housing block. Since his death his work has been the subject of exhibitions at museums throughout Europe, including Tate Liverpool (2004), Kunsthaus Graz (2005), Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2011), and CAPC Bordeaux (2012).

Michel Majerus is on view at 1062 North Orange Grove Avenue and 7818 Santa Monica Boulevard from November 21, 2015, to January 9, 2016, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

For additional information, please contact Ted Turner at (212) 243-0200 or ted@matthewmarks.com.