

Press release

Mark Wallinger | *Mark Wallinger*

30.04.- 28.05.2016

Opening: Friday, April 29th, 2016

For his seventh solo exhibition with carlier | gebauer, the Turner Prize winning artist Mark Wallinger will present his new series *id* Paintings. According to Freud, the *id*, driven by the pleasure principle, is the source of all psychic energy. Wallinger's *id* Paintings (2015) are intuitive and guided by instinct, echoing the primal, impulsive and libidinal characteristics of the *id*.

These monumental paintings have grown out of Wallinger's longstanding self-portrait series, and reference the artist's own body. Wallinger's height – or arm span – is the basis of the canvas size, they are exactly this measurement in width and double in height. Created by sweeping paint-laden hands across the canvas in active, freeform gestures, the *id* Paintings bear the evidence of their making and of the artist's performed encounter with the surface. The perceptible handprints within the paint recall cave paintings and signpost a single active participant. The paintings are apprehended at the point of arrest, encouraging forensic examination. Wallinger uses symmetrical bodily gestures, causing the two halves of the canvas to mirror one another. Through this process, reference could be made to the bilateral symmetry of Leonardo da Vinci's 'Vitruvian Man', an ideal representation of the human body and its denotations of proportion in mirror writing. The paintings bear a deliberate visual resemblance to the Rorschach test: in recognizing figures and shapes in the material, the viewer reveals their own desires and predilections, or perhaps tries to interpret those of the artist.

In *Ego* (2016) two iPhone photos depict the hands of their creator: the artist Mark Wallinger. The work, doubly hubristic, is a recreation of Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam*.

For *Shadow Walker* (2011) Wallinger captures his shadow walking along Shaftesbury Avenue, in London's Soho. The shadow moves fluidly over passing strangers and slides up and down the kerbstones. It navigates the chewed gum, spilt alcohol and worse. Before long it assumes an autonomous existence as 'real' as the artist's actual body. His creation becomes a modern-day version of Peter Pan's lost shadow.

Mark Wallinger (*1959) lives and works in London. Wallinger received the 2007 Turner Prize after a previous nomination in 1995 and represented Great Britain at the Venice Biennale in 2001. Wallinger has held solo exhibitions at the Serpentine Galleries in London, Museum for Gegenwartskunst in Basel, Switzerland, Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Belgium, Vienna Secession, the Neu Nationalgalerie in Berlin, Museo de Arte Carillo Gill in Mexico City and the Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau in Switzerland. His work is part of leading international museums' collections including Tate, London, England, MoMA, New York NY and Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.