

## OFFICE BAROQUE

### B. WURTZ

4 June - 16 July 2016

Ravensteinstraat 44 Rue Ravenstein  
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Office Baroque is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition in Belgium of New York based artist B. WURTZ.

Since the 1970's B. WURTZ has collected and repurposed commonplace found objects such as socks, plastic bags, shoelaces and mesh bags, alongside more traditional art materials as wood and marble, making low materials into icons of ordinariness through these juxtapositions. A 1973 drawing entitled Three Important Things which states "sleeping, eating and keeping warm", set the parameters for the materials Wurtz would go on to use in his aesthetic investigation of the mundane. His work channels the possibilities of everyday materials, never allowing the viewer to lose sight of what they are made from and how they are put together, providing evidence of both their formal quality and their function. He humbly seeks to dismantle the conventions of plastic discipline and finds order in things that are otherwise society's jetsam. His sculptures recall the understated language of the objet trouvé, but with distinctive profundity and wit. Among the works on view will be new works from a series referred to as "pan paintings". These wall works are made from aluminum food containers and roasting pans that pass through every home. By painting over the patterns and texts on the exterior of the pans with various colors of acrylic paint, Wurtz transforms these disposable pans into something valuable. Wurtz additionally created a group of works in handmade paper during his Lab Grant Program residency at Dieu Donn  in New York.

*"Most of my works are fairly simple arrangements. It often takes a long time to get them where I want, but sometimes it's just a matter of a minor tweak that clinches it all. I don't want to obscure what the objects are. I like that there is inherent meaning attached to them in terms of their use-value, but ultimately I want the work to be formal, nearly classical."* (B. WURTZ as told to Lauren O'Neill-Butler for 500 Words, Artforum.com, June 2013)

B. WURTZ was born in 1948 in Pasadena, California, received his BA from the University of California at Berkeley in 1970 and his MFA from California Institute of the Arts in 1980. Recent solo exhibitions include The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; Metro Pictures, New York; Kunstverein Freiburg, Freiburg; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield; Maisterralvabuena, Madrid; Richard Telles, Los Angeles; Kate MacGarry, London; Gregor Podnar, Berlin and White Flag Projects, St. Louis. He currently lives and works in New York.