

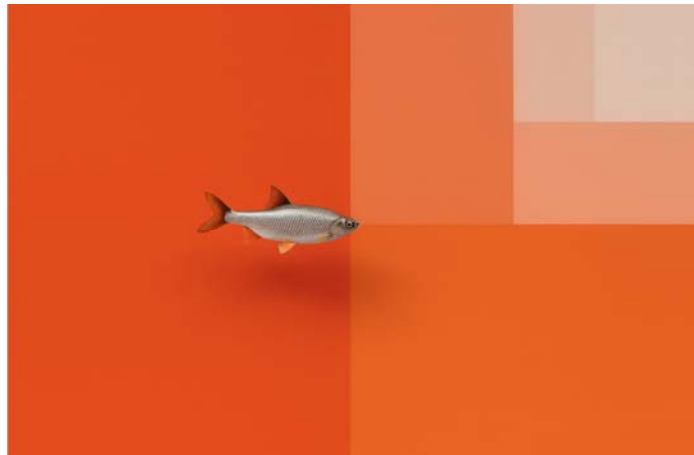
GAGOSIAN GALLERY

June 3, 2016

# Carsten Höller Zoology

June 9–August 12, 2016  
Opening reception:  
Thursday, June 9, 6–8pm

**Gagosian Gallery**  
19 place de Longemalle  
1204 Geneva  
[www.gagosian.com](http://www.gagosian.com)



*For a long time, I've been curious about applying the methodology of art as one way—which I think is equal to science and other powerful explanatory concepts—for us to understand what is surrounding us and what we are.*

—Carsten Höller

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to present “Zoology,” Carsten Höller's first exhibition in Geneva.

Trained as a scientist, Höller both echoes and surpasses scientific procedures in his work as an artist. Many of his projects invite viewer participation in order to question the facts and forms of human life. From carousels that reflect and disorient, to winding slippery slides, to vision-flipping goggles, Höller actively interrogates the functions of logic, perception, and entertainment in the larger biosphere.

“Zoology” is a selection of Höller's recent sculptures, photographs, and prints, made between 2008 and 2016, which consider how different forms of animal life might relate to human embodied awareness. Through taxidermy, casting, molding, and collage, Höller presents beings that cannot be easily categorized: they are animals, but they do not occur in nature; they are the products of anthropocentric will—of mutation, breeding, and grafting. And just as the scientist turns captive birds into hybrids, Höller turns snakes into soft, squeezable curves of neon-pink artificiality.

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In their color and form, the animals become implacable rarities—in *Divisions (Roach and Surface)* (2016), minimalist-industrial materials and a modulated orange grid form a suspension chamber for a small, shiny fish; while in the series of photogravures *Canaries* (2009), birds perch with feathers growing at wild, intersecting angles. “Zoology” thus adds another layer to Höller’s phenomenological queries: instead of entering at will a carousel, a gigantic die, or a slide, we encounter rubbery creatures and experience the childlike urge to prod and pull, although the objects—being art—are strictly out of bounds. It is this tactile wit that brings the sculptures into a surreal or hyperreal realm, between human and animal, between nature and art, taking us along with them.

**Carsten Höller** was born in 1961 in Brussels, Belgium to German parents. He lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden, and Biriwa, Ghana. His works have been shown internationally over the last two decades, including “Synchro System,” Fondazione Prada, Milan (2000); “One Day One Day,” Färgfabriken, Stockholm (2003); “Half Fiction,” ICA, Boston (2003); “7,8 Hz,” Le Consortium, Dijon (2004); “Une exposition à Marseille,” Musée d’Art Contemporain, Marseille (2004); “Carsten Höller: Test Site,” Tate Modern, London (2006); “Amusement Park,” MASS MoCA, Massachusetts (2006); “Carrousel,” Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (2008); “The Double Club,” Fondazione Prada, London (2008); “Double Slide,” Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb (2009); “Divided Divided,” Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2010); “SOMA,” Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin (2010); “Carsten Höller: Double Carousel with Zöllner Stripes,” Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, Italy (2011); “Experience,” New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (2011); “Leben,” Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna (2014); “Golden Mirror Carousel,” National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2014–15); Carsten Höller “Decision,” Hayward Gallery, London (2015).

*The Slide at the ArcelorMittal Orbit* (2016), Höller’s commissioned addition to Anish Kapoor’s *ArcelorMittal Orbit* (2012), is permanently installed at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London. “Doubt,” a major installation survey curated by Vicente Todoli is currently on view at Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan through July 31, 2016.

For further inquiries please contact the gallery at [geneva@gagosian.com](mailto:geneva@gagosian.com) or at +41.22.319.36.19. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

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Image: *Divisions (Roach and Surface)*, 2016, acrylic glass, paint, stainless steel, screws, roach (taxidermy), 17 11/16 × 7 1/2 × 29 1/2 inches (45 × 19 × 75 cm) (unframed). Carsten Höller. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery.

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*Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.*