

# MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY

## JOHN BALDESSARI MIRÓ AND LIFE IN GENERAL

JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 25, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION:

TUESDAY JANUARY 10, 2017, 6–8PM

Marian Goodman Gallery is pleased to present a new series of works by John Baldessari, *Miró and Life in General*. This is the artist's second major exhibition at Marian Goodman Gallery, London.

Throughout his career, John Baldessari has explored the correlations and contrasts between painting and photography, and between image and language. Beginning with his early text and photo-text paintings from the 1960s, he has explored these dichotomies through hybrid compositions of photography, text and painted images. His 2010 Tate Modern retrospective, *Pure Beauty*, highlighted these early text-and-image paintings as well as his influential 1980s photo-based works, which explore the cultural and artistic impact of mass media; a topic that reverberates to this day. However, in the last five years, in work such as the *Doubles* series from 2011 and 2012 and *Movie Scripts: Art*, 2014, Baldessari's focus has turned to the art historical canon and he has made the medium of painting the central subject of his work. These earlier series juxtapose images from 15<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> century paintings with texts from art history, popular music, and film noir, in order to deduce new meaning from art history and to create new ways of seeing.

The current series, *Miró and Life in General*, continues this investigation into the history of painting. Each work features a detail from one specific Miró painting and pairs it with a seemingly incongruous, Hollywood film still, displaying what Baldessari refers to as 'Life in General'. Each pairing is further partnered with a word – 'Reliable', 'Necessary', 'True', 'Unfailing' etc. – each a synonym of the other. Neither the original root word, nor the specific Miró painting are revealed, asking viewers to respond in their own way and to create their own new composite meaning. This pairing of disparate elements from art history, popular culture and language, both disassembles the canon, and reassembles it in a new form. As a towering figure of 20<sup>th</sup> century American Conceptual art and as one of the most influential teachers of a generation of artists, Baldessari's new works ultimately question the very nature of the artist's place within the canon of art history itself.



John Baldessari  
*Miró and Life in General: Reliable*, 2016  
Varnished inkjet print on canvas with acrylic paint  
95 11/16 × 49 in. (243.1 × 124.5 cm)

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

John Baldessari was born in 1931 in National City, California. He currently lives in Santa Monica, California. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Städel Museum, Frankfurt Germany (2015), the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow Russia (2013) and at the Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Netherlands (2012). Baldessari's work was the subject of the major retrospective, *Pure Beauty*, which retraced his career from 1962 to 2010. Organized by Tate Modern, London, the exhibition travelled to MACBA, Barcelona; LACMA, Los Angeles, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York from 2010-2011. His work was included in the 47th Venice Biennale (1997) and 53rd Venice Biennale (2009) where he won the Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Carnegie International (1985-86), the Whitney Biennial (1983), as well as the Documenta V (1972) and VII (1982).

John Baldessari has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the 2015 School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston Medal Award and the 2012 Kaiserring Award by the city of Goslar, Germany.

In April 2017, *John Baldessari: Catalogue Raisonné: Volume 4*, spanning the years 1994-2004, will be published by Yale University Press.

This exhibition follows the artist's recent show *Pollock/Benton*, in November 2016 at Marian Goodman Gallery, New York.

## EXHIBITION DETAILS

Please join us for the private view on Tuesday, January 10, from 6–8 pm.

We will open a pop-up John Baldessari shop from February 18 to February 25, 2017. The shop will have for sale a number of editioned prints, objects, t-shirts and other ephemera created by the artist, as well as a comprehensive collection of monographs about Baldessari, including the first three volumes of his catalogue raisonné.

For further information, please contact  
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