

# GALERIE THADDAEUS ROPAC

LONDON PARIS SALZBURG



**Daniel Richter**, *Masters of Junkies of Darkness*, 2017

Oil on canvas, 200 x 270 cm

Courtesy Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, London · Paris · Salzburg

© Daniel Richter / Adagp, Paris, 2017; Photo: Lothar Schnepf

## DANIEL RICHTER

### LE FREAK

**22 June – 29 July 2017**

**Paris Marais**

**Opening**

**Thursday, 22 June 2017, 6pm-8pm**

**with the artist present**

Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac

7, rue Debelleye

75003 Paris

### PRESS RELEASE

As from 22 June 2017, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac Paris Marais will present *Le Freak*, an exhibition of new works by Daniel Richter. The exhibition coincides with a retrospective of his work, shown successively at the Louisiana Museum in Humlebaek, Denmark, the 21er Haus Museum of Contemporary Art in the Vienna Belvedere, and due to open on 1 July at the Camden Arts Centre in London.

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Daniel Richter's new group of works, *Le Freak*, is a continuation of the series *Hello, I love you* (2015/16, Kunsthalle Schirn, Frankfurt), which constitutes a radical departure from the artist's style of the last decade: 'I wanted to get away from a certain kind of narration and from the theatre stage and from the burden of already knowing what I'm about to do', Daniel Richter stated last year.

In the new paintings the figures and forms are more defined and explicit than in the 2015/16 series, yet they maintain a sense of abstraction, which is reinforced by the background's subtle gradations of colour: 'It's an almost logical step which involves just having straight lines in the background, and that they shape this fake horizon as in a 'sublime' landscape painting. [...] and then it has elements that drift, because I wanted to be somewhere between extreme backward and extreme forward movement', Daniel Richter said in conversation with Poul Erik Tojner in the catalogue of the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark, in 2016.

Lines of crayon-oil contour patches of colour to reveal body-like shapes in seemingly pornographic poses: Spread legs, arched backs, grasping hands and wide-open mouths can be deciphered. Daniel Richter explained in 2015: 'My concern is with the surface, this flat, tangled, never-changing scheme of figure constellations, in and out'. The interplay of vibrant colours and the swift lines connect the silhouettes conveying an idea of movement and fusion. There is a sense of bestiality that emanates from the uncanny pornographic gestures and the bizarre faces. The expressive yet non-specific features border on the grotesque, their strangeness resonates with the title of the exhibition: *Le Freak*. Not only does *Le Freak* refer to a 1970s disco song - Daniel Richter habitually includes music references in his works - the presence of 'freaky' faces reveals his reverence to the surreal and satirical work of Jack Bilbo (1907-67), an under-recognised German artist, gallerist and pub owner. At Daniel Richter's instigation an exhibition of Jack Bilbo's work together with his own paintings took place at the Berlin Max Liebermann Foundation in April/May 2017.

Pornographic imagery is a source and a blueprint for Daniel Richter to explore energy, movement, surface and colour. For Art Historian Eva Meyer-Hermann, the artist also captures and reflects on the commodification of desire in our current over-stimulated environments. In her catalogue essay for *Daniel Richter, Hello, I love you* at the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt she wrote in 2015: 'The human figures and their interpersonal relationship possibilities are dissolved. Their new forms of presence as painting transforms them in the sense of post-Internet art into a commentary on disappearing privacy and individuality, which has been lost in an inflationary consumer choice with promises of the universal satisfaction of desire.'

Daniel Richter's works are on show in renowned collections worldwide, such as the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk, Centre Pompidou, Paris, Kunsthalle Kiel, Kunsthalle Hamburg, Nationalgalerie Berlin, Kunsthalle Stuttgart, Museum der Bildenden Künste Leipzig, Gemeente Museum, The Hague, Contemporary Art Collection of the Federal Republic of Germany, MoMA New York, Denver Art Museum and Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain Strasbourg.

Comprehensive solo exhibitions have been held at the Kunsthalle Kiel, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (both 2001), National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (2005), Kunsthalle, Hamburg and Gemeentemuseum, The Hague (both 2007), CAC Málaga, Denver Art Museum (both 2008) and Kestnergesellschaft, Hanover, Germany (2011). More recently, the Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck, Austria (2014) and Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2014/15), have devoted monographic shows to Daniel Richter.

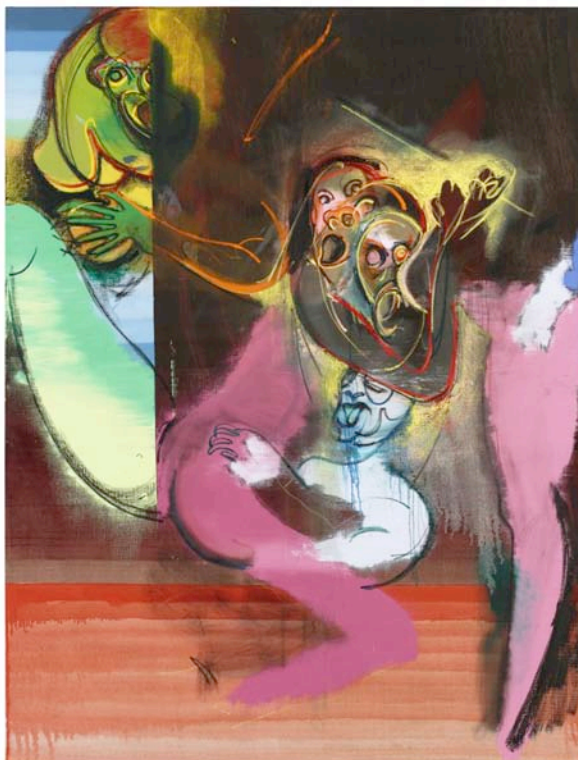
For more information regarding this exhibition, please contact Hella Pohl, [hella.pohl@ropac.net](mailto:hella.pohl@ropac.net)  
For press and visuals, please contact Marcus Rothe, [marcus.rothe@ropac.net](mailto:marcus.rothe@ropac.net)

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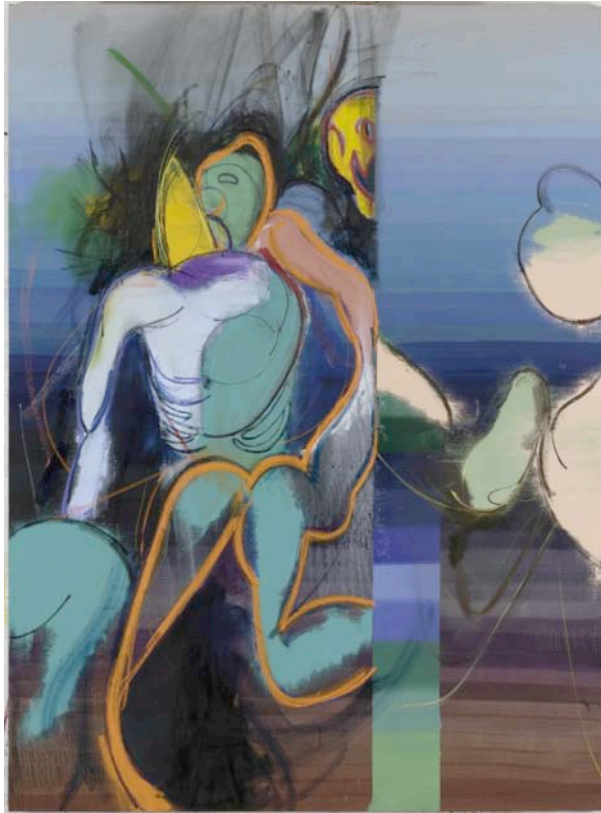


**Daniel Richter, *Filova*, 2017**  
Oil on canvas, 210 x 160 cm (82,68 x 62,99 in)  
Photo: Lothar Schnepf  
(DAR 1093)

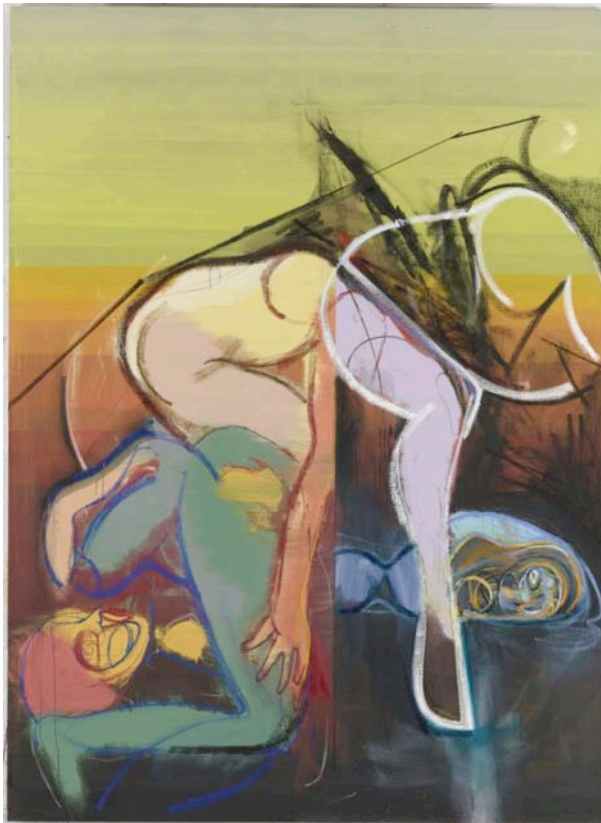


**Daniel Richter, *Klebriges von mir*, 2017**  
Oil on canvas  
210,3 x 160,3 x cm (82,8 x 63,1 in)  
Photo: Jochen Littkemann  
(DAR 1091)





**Daniel Richter**  
*ein trauriges Ereignis*, 2017  
Oil on canvas, 230,2 x 170,3 cm (90,6 x 67 in)  
Photo: Jochen Littkemann  
(DAR 1099)



**Daniel Richter**  
*Algier, morgens*, 2017  
Oil on canvas, 230,4 x 170,3 cm (90,7 x 67 in)  
Photo: Jochen Littkemann  
(DAR 1097)