

## Charles Gaines

Bleibtreustraße 45, 10623 Berlin

9 November – 22 December 2018

Opening: 9 November, 6-8 pm

Galerie Max Hetzler is pleased to announce a solo exhibition with works by Charles Gaines at Bleibtreustraße 45. This is the artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery.

Since the late 1970s, Charles Gaines is highly regarded as an important figure of conceptual art. In his drawings, works on paper and photographs he continually investigates how rule-based processes and systems construct the experiences of aesthetics, politics and language. By employing multi-layered practices, including images, texts and grids, as well as working in a serial character, Gaines examines image structures and critically questions forms of representation. His formal and at times mathematic methods are often ruptured by mysterious and illogical elements and thus explore what constitutes the rational and the irrational, the objective and the subjective.

In his exhibition with Galerie Max Hetzler, Gaines presents eight new works from his ongoing series *Numbers and Trees* that he initially began in 1985. In these, Gaines transcribes the universal motif of the tree into a system of numbers plotted onto a grid. For each work, the artist mounts an acrylic box – screened with grids – onto a drawing of a tree, deriving from a photo taken at the Tiergarten in the centre of Berlin. He then paints another tree silhouette directly onto the acrylic surface. The painted tree is formed by coloured and numbered squares, starting from the centre of the trunk with the number zero and branching outward in numeric order. As the series continues, each preceding tree, characterised by a different hue, appears on the following work, creating a conglomeration of layered colours and forms.

Breaking down the distinctive shape of each tree into an order of numbers, squares and colours, Gaines alienates the visual perception of this ordinary object and questions the perceptual knowledge of what a certain form means.

Another work on view is the multimedia installation *Sound Text*, 2015, depicting the first two of four parts of the series. In *Sound Text #1* and *Sound Text #2*, Gaines applies political writings by American abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Chinese philosopher Confucius to early 20th Century American song melodies using a musical transcription system. Each part of *Sound Text* consists of a triptych that is composed of two framed drawings and one monitor. While the drawings show the piano score made up of the original melody line with the substituted political text underneath, the political text is scrolled in succession on each monitor, accompanied by the respective orchestrated sound track.

Converting the letters of the political writing into an elaborate system of musical harmonies and linking them to the historic melodies, Gaines uses the structure of his sources to produce something different. The final sound marks an arbitrary correlation between language and musical composition, forming a new relationship between two separate systems.



Charles Gaines, *Numbers and Trees: Tiergarten*  
Series I: *Tree #5, Adrian*, 2018

At the same time, Galerie Max Hetzler presents the second part of the group exhibition *True Stories: A Show Related to an Era – The Eighties*, curated by Peter Pakesch, at Goethestraße 2/3.

**Charles Gaines** (\*1944, Charleston)

lives and works in Los Angeles. Gaines' work was presented in solo exhibitions, such as the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Miami (2017); the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015); The Studio Museum, Harlem (2014); Pitzer College Art Gallery and Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, California (both 2012). He formed part of group exhibitions at renowned institutions, including the MoMA, New York (2017 & 2014); BALTIC, Gateshead (2017); the Venice Biennale, Venice (2015 & 2007); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2015); The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2011) and UCLA Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2011). Charles Gaines has been granted the Guggenheim Fellowship in 2013. His work can be found in the collections of the MoMA, New York; The Whitney Museum, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz and Galerie der Stadt Esslingen at Villa Merkel, Esslingen, among others.

Further exhibitions, events and fair participations:

13 October – 21 December 2018

**Albert Oehlen**

*Sexe, Religion, Politique*

57, rue du Temple 75004 Paris

9 November 2018 – 9 February 2019

Opening: 9 November, 6-8 pm, with a DJ set by Gudrun Gut

**True Stories**

*A Show Related to an Era – The Eighties: Part II*

curated by Peter Pakesch

Goethestraße 2/3, 10623 Berlin

13 November 2018 – 8 February 2019

Opening: 13 November, 6-8 pm

**André Butzer**

*1 Eis Bitte! (1999)*

41 Dover Street W1S 4NS London

15 November 2018, 6.30 pm

**Talk Peter Pakesch**

in conversation with Wilhelm Schürmann, Heimo Zobernig and Bettina Steinbrügge

Goethestraße 2/3, 10623 Berlin

space is limited, please register at [info@maxhetzler.com](mailto:info@maxhetzler.com)

6 – 9 December 2018

**Art Basel Miami Beach**

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