

# Petzel

**DANA SCHUTZ**

***Imagine Me and You***

January 10 – February 23, 2019

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 10th, 6–8pm

456 West 18th Street

Petzel Gallery is delighted to announce, *Imagine Me and You*, a solo exhibition of new paintings and sculptures by Dana Schutz. This is her third show at the gallery and will mark the first time she will exhibit sculptures. The exhibition will be on view from January 10th through February 23rd with an opening reception on Thursday, January 10th, from 6–8pm.

*Imagine Me and You* depicts strange terrain where clouds hover like rocks, ground is composed of jawbones, and mountains suspend writhing histories and political dilemma. Here, characters travel in groups or pairs, their features pocked and marred by exterior forces or molded by interior psychic malady. Alone and often monstrous, they struggle to inhabit their own image. Their figuration is informed by their task at hand and own felt sensation—a fishlike runner tries to escape her body on an endless treadmill, a lecturer giving a Ted Talk feels her face as she shapes it, and a multi-limbed painter tries to hold up her studio and canvas while the walls tumble in an earthquake.

The surfaces of Schutz's new paintings are layered and built up with thick impasto. Figures become walking palates as paint, daubed and squeezed straight from the tube, create scars, wounds, nipples or noses. Other times, the paint is sculpted, as in the painting *Bat*, molding it as an imprint of an iconoclast's weapon that has swiped across the character's face.

As paint is used as a sculptural material to build subjects, five new bronze sculptures render Schutz's pictorial elements as objects. The sculptures, first molded in clay and later cast in bronze, are gestural and direct. There is a physicality of feeling combined with absurdity that is comically tragic—an anguished man sports an extra head, a smoker exhales a sculptural cloud, and a woman mashes her breasts together under a setting sun. One sculpture, *Washing Monsters*, echoes the painting of the same title—a man stranded on a mountain top caresses and cares for a presence that he fears. The weight of the monster's arm hugs him in companionship yet confines him for eternity.

Dana Schutz was born in 1976 in Livonia, Michigan. She has been the subject of museum exhibitions both nationally and internationally. Schutz's solo exhibitions include *Eating Atom Bombs* at the Transformer Station, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland (2018); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2017); Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2015); Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover (2014); Hepworth Wakefield Museum, Wakefield, United Kingdom (2013); Miami Art Museum; Denver Art Museum (2012); Neuberger Museum in Purchase, New York (2011); Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Roverto, Italy (2010); and the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts (2006). She has participated in many acclaimed group exhibitions, including The Whitney Biennial 2017, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2017); Riotous Baroque: From Cattelan to Zurbarán Manifestations of Precarious Vitality, Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland (2012); Take Two. Worlds and Views: Contemporary Art from the Collection, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2007); and Clandestine, Venice Biennale, Venice (2003).

Petzel Gallery is located at 456 West 18th Street New York, NY 10011. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM–6:00 PM. For press inquires, please contact Ricky Lee at ricky@petzel.com, or call (212) 680-9467.