

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

523 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011 Tel: 212-243-0200 Fax: 212-243-0047

PRESS RELEASE

David Weiss Drawings

February 9 – April 6, 2019

Opening: Friday, February 8, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Matthew Marks is pleased to announce **David Weiss Drawings**, the next exhibition in his gallery at 523 West 24th Street. The exhibition presents a cross-section of the artist's works on paper made between the late 1960s and the early 1980s, before he began collaborating with Peter Fischli.

In those early years David Weiss (1946–2012) explored a range of visual idioms with the same playful curiosity that infused his later collaborative work with Fischli. Some of the earliest drawings were made during his extensive travels from his native Switzerland to London, Montreal, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Mexico, Morocco, and Italy. Many of them convey this restless spirit, particularly the multi-sheet *Metamorphoses*, with their hallucinatory transformations of free-associated images, or his *World Maps* drawings, which depict the earth's major landmasses with affectionate looseness.

The over fifty drawings in the exhibition are executed in a variety of media and in a wide range of sizes. Weiss's love for underground and classic comics can be seen in the drawings of smoking Giacometti sculptures and flirtatious flowers. Rendered with cartoonish black lines on bright watercolor backgrounds, they embody not only his absurdist humor but also his sense of wonder. As Barry Schwabsky writes in the accompanying catalogue, "These works reflect a commitment neither to a particular type of subject matter, nor to a particular way of drawing, but rather to an exploration of drawing as such." This exploration is clear in the *Neocolor* series, with its colorful sgraffito marks in oil pastel, and the *Women* series, a showcase of brushwork techniques in ink and watercolor.

David Weiss was born in Zurich and had his first exhibition in Bern in 1970. His early drawings were the focus of a 2014 survey at the Bündner Kunstmuseum in Chur, Switzerland, which traveled to the Swiss Institute in New York in 2014–15. His creative collaboration with Peter Fischli, which began in 1979 and lasted until the end of Weiss's life, yielded a celebrated and enormously influential body of work that has been the subject of numerous museum exhibitions around the world, including, most recently, "Peter Fischli David Weiss: How to Work Better" at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2016.

David Weiss Drawings is on view at 523 West 24th Street from February 9 to April 6, 2019, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

For additional information, please contact Stephanie Dorsey at 212-243-0200 or stephanie@matthewmarks.com.