

HAUSER & WIRTH

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Press Release

Andy Hope 1930 Medley Tour London by Andy Hope 1930

Hauser & Wirth London, Savile Row

19 April – 26 May 2012

Opening: Wednesday 18 April 6 – 8 pm

Berlin-based artist Andy Hope 1930 has developed a far-reaching and diverse iconography combining the worlds of comic books, science fiction and mythology with history, pop culture and literature. For his exhibition at Hauser & Wirth, 'Medley Tour London by Andy Hope 1930', Hope will present the 'X-Medleys': a new series of paintings that weaves together elements from his unique pictorial language. Displayed alongside new and re-invented installations, this body of work represents a significant progression in Hope's practice, which develops with each stop on the artist's 'Medley Tour'.

A 'medley' is commonly defined as a piece of music consisting of several harmonically adjusted melodies taken from a musician's entire repertoire. Likewise for the 'X-Medleys', Hope revisits different iconographic elements which have played a major role in his oeuvre, as well as works from modernism and contemporary art. He then formulates these elements anew through a process of revision, erasure and dislocation, providing his audience with a fresh perspective with which to approach his new paintings, earlier works and his appropriated references. For example, Hope's 'X-Medley 2' was inspired by Francis Picabia's painting of a young couple sitting underneath a cherry blossom tree. Hope adopts this basic composition and superimposes his own symbols: the black mask from his depictions of Robin Dostoyevsky; the woman's hair from his paintings of Hollywood starlets; and the dark shapes pulled from an earlier work showing a vacant room with empty frames.



With the 'X-Medleys', Hope takes one of his central themes – the manipulation of time – to a new level by intervening in his own artistic past. As Hope explains to John C. Welchman, this intervention enables him to return to the project of painting without 'constructing new narratives and enlarging my sign system, without accumulating more references and going deeper into the labyrinth'. Hope reverse-engineers his practice, paring it down to its most fundamental elements and, in doing so, he creates a lexicon of his oeuvre, what Welchman describes as an 'exit strategy', which in turn pushes him forward.

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For his exhibition at Hauser & Wirth, Hope has also remade and deconstructed his 'Batman Gallery'. The first 'Batman Gallery' (2004) was an architectural interpretation of the eponymous superhero, his black cape solidified into one long, receding roof, which housed a gallery for a selection of Hope's paintings. The re-visited version has been painted white and divided into several pieces to be displayed in different areas of Hauser & Wirth's north gallery. Its soaring roof is suspended from the ceiling and the steps that once lead to the viewing area now lead nowhere.



Formerly known as Andreas Hofer, the artist adopted the name of Andy Hope 1930 in 2010.

Hope associates the year 1930 with both the rise of the comic book to a mass medium, and the abandonment of suprematism and Russian constructivism, elements which have all played a significant role in his work.

Hope's recent solo exhibitions include 'Medley Tour by Andy Hope 1930' at Kestnergesellschaft, Hanover, Germany, where he first exhibited the 'Medleys', a precursor to the 'X-Medleys' (2012); 'Detour – Landscape in Progress II', Kunsthistorisches Museum and CAC Contemporary Art Club at Theseustempel, Vienna, Austria (2011); 'Robin Dostoyevsky by Andy Hope 1930', CAC Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Malaga, Spain (2011); 'Andy Hope 1930 at the Freud', Freud Museum, London, England (2010); 'Andy Hope 1930', Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany (2009); 'air tsu dni oui sélav', Hauser & Wirth London, England (2009); and 'White Space Black', Oldenburger Kunstverein, Oldenburg, Germany. Hope's forthcoming exhibitions include a major solo show at Inverleith House, Edinburgh, Scotland, in November 2012.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Isa Genzken
14 April – 19 May 2012
Hauser & Wirth Zürich

Ron Mueck
19 April – 26 May 2012
Hauser & Wirth London, Savile Row

'Science on the back end. Artists selected by
Matthew Day Jackson
1 May – 16 June 2012
Hauser & Wirth New York

'The Historical Box. Curated by **Mara McCarthy**
22 May – 28 July 2012
Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly

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X-Medley 2
2012
Acrylic and lacquer on canvasboard
80 x 60 cm / 31 1/2 x 23 5/8 in

X-Medley 5
2012
Acrylic on canvasboard
60 x 60 cm / 23 5/8 x 23 5/8 in

X-Medley 9
2012
Acrylic and lacquer on canvas board
60 x 60 cm / 23 5/8 x 23 5/8 in