

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

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7/F PEDDER BUILDING
12 PEDDER STREET
CENTRAL HONG KONG
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Tue–Sat 11:00am–7:00pm



RUDOLF STINGEL

Thursday, 12 March–Saturday, 9 May 2015

Opening reception: Thursday, March 12th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm

Gagosian Hong Kong is pleased to present recent paintings by Rudolf Stingel. This will be his first major exhibition in Asia.

Over the past twenty years, Stingel has examined the nature of memory while expanding the scope and definition of painting. Echoing Albrecht Dürer's *Painter's Manual* of the sixteenth century, he produced *Instructions* in 1989, a booklet illustrating how to create a Rudolf Stingel painting, which anticipated an ongoing investigation into the relationship between artist and artwork. Central to his oeuvre is his palpable rendering of the passage of time, together with his efforts to expand the vocabulary of painting: from the tulle abstract silver paintings of the 1990s to the floor and wall carpet installations; from the melancholic self-portraits to the vast golden canvases that bear the traces of time and action in the studio.

Stingel's recent panel paintings are a new form of opulent abstraction born out of humble materials and banal gestures. The current works derive from his environmental installations at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and the Whitney Museum in New York in 2007. In each of these participatory works, he transformed the exhibition space by covering the walls in a layer of reflective aluminum-faced Celotex (among the first Celotex installations were those presented at the Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Trento in 2001 and the Venice Biennale in 2003). Viewers could scratch, write, and mark the pristine surface at will, their individual traces accumulating into a mass of anonymous marks. Casting and plating large sections of the graffiti-covered insulation panels, Stingel has produced sumptuous works that memorialize the effects of time. The works in the current exhibition are selected fragments of the inscribed walls cast in copper using a procedure that captures even the most faint surface detail. The cast base is then electroplated with gold, an alchemical transformation that imbues common graffiti with a new, anonymous, and eternal abstract beauty.

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Rudolf Stingel was born in 1956 in Merano, Italy. Major solo exhibitions include Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Trento, Italy (2001); Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2004); Inverleith House, Edinburgh (2006); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2007, traveled to Whitney Museum of American Art, New York); Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2010); Wiener Secession (2012); and Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2013–14). His work was included in the Biennale di Venezia (1993, 2003); "Day for Night: Whitney Biennial," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2006); "Life on Mars: 55th Carnegie International," Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2008); "Mapping the Studio: Artists from the François Pinault Collection," Punta della Dogana and Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2009); and "NYC 1993: Experimental Jet Set, Trash and No Star," New Museum, New York (2013).

Stingel lives and works in New York City and Merano, Italy.

For further information please contact the gallery at hongkong@gagosian.com or at +852.2151.0555. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

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Image: *Untitled*, 2012, electroformed copper, plated nickel and gold, 94 1/2 x 94 1/2 inches (240 x 240 cm). Photo by Alessandro Zambianchi.

Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.

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