

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIALOGUES



ART BASEL HONG KONG | ONLINE VIEWING ROOM
20 – 25 MARCH 2020
VIP OPENING: 18 – 20 MARCH 2020

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present a selection of new and recent works that walk the line between abstraction and representation by gallery artists Mel Bochner, Angela Bulloch, Bernard Frize, Donna Huanca, Claudio Parmiggiani, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Garth Weiser, Clare Woods, Yun Hyong-keun and Toby Ziegler.

The work of Michelangelo Pistoletto and Claudio Parmiggiani is absorbed in the revival of figurative painting, building upon conceptual and material innovations to revive and refresh the genre. Inaugurated in the 1960s, Pistoletto's mirror paintings draws the viewer and their environment into the work, altering the fiction of the painted image as a frozen moment. Similarly, Parmiggiani's *Delocazione* explores the concept of ephemerality in painting, crafting a sense of transience using powder, soot and fire to create shadows and imprints. Exploring the language of figuration in all its guises, many of the works presented here operate on the knife's edge of abstraction, from Clare Woods' magnified chandelier that dissolves into crystalline fragments on close observation, to Donna Huanca's totemic sculptures, based around the proportions of the models that execute her ritualistic performances. Toby Ziegler's *Base Rate* draws inspiration from Jan van Eyck's celebrated Arnolfini Portrait. Yet by effacing the surface of the painting, Ziegler corrupts the process of representational painting.

By contrast, the presentation also highlights abstract practices, commencing with the work of Garth Weiser and Bernard Frize, which tenders, at first glance, a more traditional attitude to the genre. While Weiser nods to the history of mid-century American abstraction, the geometry of Frize's methodological practice prizes structure and the significance of the grid. With his systematic approach, Frize absolves himself from the decision-making process, something that is mirrored in the painting of Yun Hyong-keun whose architectural compositions self-determine as pigment absorbs evenly into raw canvas. Drawing the opposing forces of abstraction and representation together is Mel Bochner's *Ha Ha Ha*, which succeeds in conceptually abstracting language from a figurative standpoint. Bochner's work fundamentally complicates the relationship between reading and looking, inviting the viewer to re-consider the ways in which we interpret language and image.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Art Basel Online Viewing Rooms

Simon Lee Gallery is delighted to announce its participation in Art Basel's first iteration of Online Viewing Rooms, a new digital platform designed to connect galleries and collectors from around the world.

Art Basel VIP guests will have exclusive access to the VIP Preview of the Online Viewing Rooms taking place from 18 – 20 March (6pm HKT / 11am CET / 6am EST) by logging in with your Art Basel account. All other visitors will have access to the Online Viewing Rooms from 20 – 25 March (6pm HKT / 11am CET / 6am EST) by logging in with your Art Basel account, or registering for one here: <https://www.artbasel.com/signup>.

Once the Online Viewing Room is live, you will be able to view works here: <https://bit.ly/artbaselOVR>

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space in New York. In 2017, this space was re-launched with a year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Mel Bochner, *Ha Ha Ha*, 2018, Signed on verso in Sharpie on stretcher, Oil on velvet, 190.5 x 227.3 cm (75 x 89 1/2 in.) in 3 parts. Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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