

20TH-CENTURY DESIGN ASIA WEEK EXTRAVAGANT GLASS JEAN-LEON GEROME







LONDON

Looking Back in the Mirror

The 78-year-old Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, most often associated with the Arte Povera movement, has had a wildly eclectic career. He'll be returning to a familiar motif, however, in his solo show at Simon Lee Gallery, September 14 through October 29, which features a group of new "Mirror Paintings" echoing a series he first made in the 1960s and '70s. Here photographic silkscreens are applied to reflective stainless-steel panels so that what Pistoletto calls "images of the quotidian [with a] specific, strong power" are set adrift in a shifting reflected world. The shiny surface of the steel ensures that spectators see themselves in the picture. The theme here is labor, and several compositions include people engaged in manual work, but building materials and tools are the focus of the most engaging pictures, like (clockwise from top left) *Gru Rossa*, 2010, *Trave di Ferro*, 2010, *Passacavi*, 2008–11, and *La Ghiaia*, 2010. "Each 'Mirror Painting' is part of a specific time, a specific moment," Pistoletto says. "They're a kind of document of life." -scott indensek