

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANS-PETER FELDMANN



19 MARCH – 8 MAY 2021

PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY 18 MARCH, 6 – 8 PM

SIMON LEE GALLERY, HONG KONG

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present German artist Hans-Peter Feldmann's third solo exhibition at its Hong Kong space. Encompassing works from across Feldmann's nearly five-decades long career, this survey show includes sculpture, photography, installation, collage, the appropriated image and found object.

Feldmann's work dissolves the borders between art and life, blurring distinctions between conventionally high and low culture to discover unexpected, humorous outcomes that often verge on the absurd, and which challenge his viewers' aesthetic sensibilities. One consistent strand of his practice sees the artist appropriate and modify historic oil paintings, mined from auctions, second hand shops and markets. Disrupting long-held assertions of the artist's role as a unique creator, Feldmann systematically reconstructs existing images and objects to reflect on representation, with such subtle, humorous interventions as the addition of a red nose to a portrait, or by painting over the subject's face to create a *trompe l'oeil* cut out. In *A Story*, the artist brings together three found paintings in a simple grouping that encourages the viewer to make connections or associations between the otherwise unrelated canvases, ultimately bestowing each of them with new life and narrative meaning.

Elsewhere, Feldmann presents *All the Clothes of a Woman*, a photo series that brings together 70 individual black and white photographs of all the items of clothing from one woman's wardrobe. It paints a picture of the subject without ever revealing her to the viewer – she remains an enigmatic presence, gently fetishised by her outfit choices. The work distils Feldmann's artistic thesis, which promotes a democratic approach to art making, favouring appropriation and fragmented narrative to explore the meaning, or rather meaninglessness, of everyday life. The concept of fetish is extended in other works in the exhibition that are constructed around women's footwear: in one sculpture, a pair of gold sandals on a plinth are embedded with upturned drawing pins. Feldmann's use of mass-produced images and objects implies a compulsion to archive the mundane in his pursuit to understand our quotidian lives; within the prosaic, he finds detail, nuance and intimate, complex narrative.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Hans-Peter Feldmann

Hans-Peter Feldmann was born in 1941 and lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany. Feldmann's work has been shown extensively internationally and has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, including Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (2019); Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2017); C/O Berlin, Berlin, Germany (2016); Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany (2015); The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel (2013); Serpentine Galleries, London, UK (2012); Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain (2010) and Arnolfini, Bristol, UK (2007). Major group exhibitions include New York University in Abu Dhabi Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2019); The Modern Institute, Glasgow, Scotland (2017); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN (2016); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (2015); Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK (2014); Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria (2013); Bass Museum of Art, Miami, FL (2012) and the Venice Biennale, Italy (2009). Feldmann was awarded the Hugo Boss Prize for the Arts, in association with the Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY in 2010. His work belongs to major private and public collections including S.M.A.K., the Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art, Ghent, Belgium; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain; Tate, London, UK and The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY.

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.

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www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Hans-Peter Feldmann, Untitled. Oil on wood, framed, 24 x 20 cm (9 1/2 x 7 7/8 in.) © Hans-Peter Feldmann.

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