

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

555 WEST 24TH STREET

NEW YORK NY 10011

GALLERY HOURS:

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Tue – Sat 10:00am– 6:00pm

Franz West: *Sisyphos: Litter & Waste*

Saturday, February 22 – Saturday, March 29, 2003

Opening reception: Saturday, February 22nd, 6 – 8pm

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Franz West. The exhibition will feature various aspects of West's work including monumental outdoor sculpture, as well as large *papier-maché* works and collages.

Franz West's sculptural works continue in the spirit of the French based *art informel* movement of the 1950's/60's, wherein traditional forms of abstraction were rejected, as well as an evolution to the ritualistic activities of the Viennese *Aktionisten* group of the 1960's/70's, which incorporated an aggressive interchange between the artist and artwork in a performance setting.

"West delights in precisely this ghost of semantics in *informel*, in a reference to Leonardo da Vinci's treatise on painting when he describes the way that we discover 'recognisable' features in even the most amorphous structures. The traditional mode of display draws attention to the curious way in which people deal with art, and by being presented in groups and ensembles, a rhetorical device to emphasize the point, attention is also focused on curious nature of the sculpture themselves".

–Melitta Kliege, Curator, Neues Museum Nürnberg

For this exhibition Franz West has created *Corona* and *Dorit*, two monumental sculptures suitable for outdoors. Constructed out of enameled painted aluminum, West magnifies basic shapes and simple forms, creating improbable fantasies for a landscape. Franz West's sculptural works incorporate an ongoing series called *Paßstücke*, translated as adaptives, in which the viewers are encouraged to pick up the work and experience how it fits and adapts to their bodies. West also explores the incorporation of furniture into his art and installations. As a result, a reflective and meditative experience is casually urged onto the viewers by having them engage, sit and relax within the sculpture. What appears to be abstract in West's sculpture is rather the sculptural description of abstraction. This irony is fully reached in the collages; wherein the normalcy of appropriated advertising vocabulary is subverted by psychological, sexual and absurdist subtexts all brought together as painted representational art.

A fully illustrated catalogue including an introduction by Melitta Kliege will accompany the exhibition.

For more information please contact the gallery.

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