

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

February 21, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY
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Tue - Sat 10:00am - 6:00pm



Prefab

Tuesday, February 26 – Saturday, April 19, 2008

Opening reception: Tuesday, February 26th, from 6 to 8 pm

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce *Prefab*, an exhibition of works by **Richard Artschwager, Alighiero e Boetti, Mike Kelley, Martin Kippenberger, Jeff Koons, Sherrie Levine, Richard Prince, Rudolf Stingel** and **Rosemarie Trockel**. These conceptually rooted artists have all used industrial, prefabricated, or found materials to achieve a range of new strategies within, and alluding to, painting – demonstrating an attitude towards the abstract sublime that is wholly ambivalent.

While all these wall-based works “behave” as paintings, paradoxically this is achieved through an embrace of assemblagist strategies that abandon illusory representation for a more immediate and *readymade* reality.

Artschwager’s prescient use of Formica and Celotex transformed the classical idea of how a painting could function, renewing emphasis on the intrinsic structure of the work while taking into account the sculptural and structural aspects of a painting’s composition. Beginning with one of his seminal Formica paintings, the exhibition charts a trajectory through a myriad of provocative approaches including Boetti’s embroideries, Trockel’s machine-knitted wool paintings, Kelley’s *Carpet* paintings and *Memory Ware Flats*, Stingel’s Styrofoam and Celotex paintings, Prince’s *Hoods*, and Koons’ alluring advertisement from the *Luxury and Degradation* series. Whether using “soft” household carpet, embroidery, and wool, or “hard” industrial substances such as Styrofoam and automotive components, these artists embrace the eternal dialogue on the nature of abstraction and representation by challenging the traditional use and meaning of painting with a range of substances and textures that invoke associations with daily experience.

For further information, please contact the gallery.