

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

February 23, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

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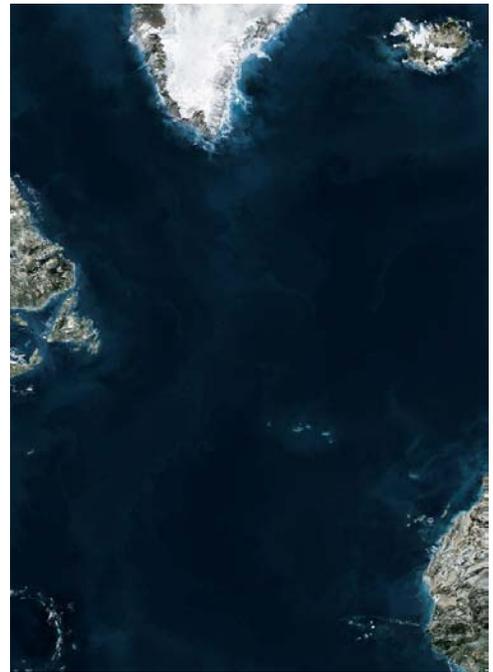
456 NORTH CAMDEN DRIVE

T. 310.271.9400

BEVERLY HILLS CA 90210

F. 310.271.9420

HOURS: Tues – Sat 10:00am – 5:30pm



Ocean II, 2010

© Andreas Gursky/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2010

ANDREAS GURSKY

Thursday, March 4 – Saturday, May 1, 2010

Opening reception for the artist: Thursday, March 4th, from 6 to 8 pm

Space is very important for me but in a more abstract way. Maybe to try to understand not just that we are living in a certain building or in a certain location, but to become aware that we are living on a planet that is going at enormous speed through the universe. I read a picture not for what's really going on there, I read it more for what is going on in our world generally.

--Andreas Gursky

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition by Andreas Gursky to inaugurate the newly expanded Beverly Hills gallery, designed by Richard Meier & Partners.

In the two adjacent main galleries, Gursky will present a new series of large-scale works as well as a grouping of subjects that he has selected from the last twenty years, from the landscape *Mülheim an der Ruhr, Anglers* (1989) to the empty scene of *Untitled XV* (2008).

Gursky has demonstrated that a photographer can make or construct—rather than simply take—photographs about modern life and produce them on the scale of epic painting. Just as history painters of previous centuries found their subjects in the realities of everyday life, he seeks inspiration in his observations of the human species in the world, whether firsthand or via reports of global phenomena in the daily media.

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The resulting pictures have a formal congruence deriving from a bold and edgy dialogue between photography and painting, empirical observation and artfulness, conceptual rigor and spontaneity, representation and abstraction. In pursuit of his aim to create "an encyclopedia of life" Gursky's world view fuses the flux of reality with the stillness of metaphysical reflection.

From initially using the computer as a retouching tool, he began exploring its transformative potential, sometimes combining elements of multiple shots of the same subject into an intricate yet seamless whole, at other times barely altering the image at all. Over time his subjects have expanded to map and distill the emergent patterns and symmetries of a globalized world with its consensual flows and grids of data and people, architecture, and mass spectacle.

In the new *Ocean* series, Gursky has for the first time relinquished his position behind the camera to work with satellite images of the world as his raw material, creating contemporary *mappe del mondo* on a scale befitting the cosmic grandeur of the subject. In their darkly nuanced surfaces, he has worked to reconcile the division between the machine eye and the human eye, continuing the debates and practices begun in the nineteenth century regarding photography and the issue of artistic expression versus objective science.

Andreas Gursky: Long Shot Close Up (2009), a documentary directed by Jan Schmidt-Garre (German with English subtitles), will be screened continuously in the rear gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

The catalogue in two volumes, featuring essays by California-based art historian Norman Bryson and German art historian and curator Werner Spies, is forthcoming.

Andreas Gursky was born in 1955 in Leipzig, former East Germany. He attended Folkwangschule, Essen (1978-1981) and Staatliche Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf (1981-1987). Recent major museum exhibitions include "Werke-Works 80-08", Kunstmuseen Krefeld (2008, touring to Moderna Museet, Stockholm and Vancouver Art Gallery in 2009); Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland (2007); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2007, touring to Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Sharjah Art Museum, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, and Ekaterina Foundation, Moscow in 2007-2008); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2001, touring to Reina Sofia, Madrid, Centre Pompidou, Paris, and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago in 2001-2002). His work is included in important public and private collections throughout the world.

Gursky lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany.

For further press inquiries, reproduction permission and hi-res images, please contact Melissa Passman at mpassman@gagosian.com or at +1.212.741.1111.