

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

23 October 2013

PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

17-19 DAVIES STREET

LONDON W1K 3DE

GALLERY HOURS:

T. 020.7493.3020

F. 020.7493.3025

Mon-Sat 10:00am-6:00pm



FRANK GEHRY: *Fish Lamps*

Thursday, 7 November–Saturday, 21 December 2013

Opening reception: Thursday, November 7th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

The fish is a perfect form.

—Frank Gehry

Gagosian London is pleased to present “Frank Gehry: Fish Lamps.” This is the latest body of work in Gehry’s new series of playful and dynamic light sculptures.

One of the most celebrated architects living today, Gehry’s career spans five decades and three continents. Known for his imaginative designs and creative use of materials, he has forever altered the urban landscape with spectacular buildings that are conceived as dynamic structures rather than static vessels.

Gehry has always experimented with sculpture and furniture in addition to his architectural pursuits, coaxing inventive forms out of unexpected materials, from the *Easy Edges* (1969–73) and *Experimental Edges* (1979–82)—chairs and tables carved from blocks of industrial corrugated cardboard—to the Knoll furniture series (1989–92), fashioned from bentwood. The *Fish Lamps* evolved from a 1983 commission by the Formica Corporation to create objects from the then-new plastic laminate ColorCore. After accidentally shattering a piece of it while working, Gehry was inspired by the shards, which reminded him of fish scales. The first *Fish Lamps*, which were fabricated between 1984 and 1986, employed wire armatures molded into fish shapes, onto which shards of ColorCore are individually glued, creating clear allusions to the morphic attributes of real fish.

Since the creation of the first lamp in 1984, the fish has become a recurrent motif in Gehry’s work, as much for its “good design” as its iconographical and natural attributes. Its quicksilver appeal informs the undulating, curvilinear forms of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain (1997); the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Chicago (2004); and the Marqués de Riscal Vineyard Hotel in Elciego, Spain (2006), as well as the *Fish Sculpture* at Vila Olímpica in Barcelona (1989–92) and *Standing Glass Fish* for the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (1986).

(Continue to page 2)

17-19 DAVIES STREET LONDON W1K 3DE T. 020.7493.3020 F. 020.7493.3025

LONDON@GAGOSIAN.COM WWW.GAGOSIAN.COM

In 2012 Gehry decided to revisit his earlier ideas, and began working on an entirely new group of *Fish Lamps*. The resulting works range in scale from life-size to outsize, and the use of ColorCore is bolder, incorporating larger and more jagged elements. The sculptures are each unique, and each made by hand.

The softly glowing *Fish Lamps* are full of whimsy and vigor. As individuals or groupings of up to eight, some are fixed to pedestals, some are wall sconces, while others hang as elaborate chandeliers. Curling and flexing in attitudes of simulated motion, these artificial creatures emit a warm, incandescent light. This intimation of life, underscored by the almost organic textures of the nuanced surfaces, presents a spirited symbiosis of material, form, and function.

Frank Gehry was born in Toronto in 1929. He studied architecture at the University of Southern California and urban planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. His drawings, models, designs, and sculpture have been exhibited in major museums throughout the world. Among his most celebrated buildings are the Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany (1989); the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain (1997); and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles (2003). Awards include the Pritzker Architecture Prize (1989); the Wolf Foundation Prize in Arts (1992); the Praemium Imperiale in Architecture from Japan Art Association (1992); the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize (1994); the National Medal of Arts (1998); the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects (1999); the Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects (2000); and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Americans for the Arts (2000). "Frank Gehry, Architect," the most comprehensive exhibition of his work to date, was presented at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2001. Gehry's latest building, the Louis Vuitton Foundation for Creation in the Bois du Boulogne, Paris, will be completed in 2014.

The first *Fish Lamps* were shown in "Frank Gehry: Unique Lamps" in 1984 at Gagosian Los Angeles. Gehry lives and works in Los Angeles.

For further inquiries please contact the gallery at london@gagosian.com or at +44.207.493.3020. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

Please join the conversation with Gagosian Gallery on Twitter (@GagosianLondon) and on Instagram (@gagosiangallery) via the hashtags #FrankGehry #FishLamps.

Image: *Untitled (London I)*, 2013, metal wire, ColorCore formica, silicone and wood base, 61 3/8 x 58 1/4 x 64 7/8 inches (155.9 x 148 x 164.8 cm), photography by Josh White

Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.