

## GAGOSIAN GALLERY

6 November 2013

### PRESS RELEASE

#### GAGOSIAN GALLERY

19 PLACE DE LONGEMALLE

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Tue–Fri 11:00am–7:00pm; Sat 12:00–5:00pm



## PIOTR UKLAŃSKI: *Floored*

Wednesday, 6 November 2013–Friday, 10 January 2014

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

*Ukłański has formed his approach to painting without a brush, oil, and canvas. He uses everything and weaves it into everything else. The esoteric becomes magic, the erotic becomes pornographic, from violence to chance, from nothing to everything, he always finds a way to create another space. Using studios and theaters, magazines and canvases, pottery and weaving, pencil shavings and ink droppings, he creates his unique pictorial language. Ukłański is the inventor of "resuscitative painting," which is the opposite of "action painting." His canvases are both targets and garbage bags for all the pictorial vernaculars he resurrects.*

—Francesco Bonami

Gagosian Geneva is pleased to announce an exhibition by Piotr Ukłański.

The exhibition centerpiece is *Untitled (Scuff Marks)* (1995), a floor work that Ukłański exhibited that year at the artist-run Cubitt Gallery in London and which has not been exhibited since. Surrounding this important early gestural work are recent works from the ceramic mosaic paintings and pencil shavings series—primary examples of Ukłański's "meta-painting" practice. Created one year before the renowned *Untitled (Dance Floor)* (1996), *Untitled (Scuff Marks)* (1995) underscores Ukłański's critical interest in sculpture and painting in the expanded field, the foundation for his current studio practice. Ukłański went on to make diverse floor works, including *Untitled (Wet Floor)* (2001) and *Untitled (Permanent Floor)* (2003).

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In lieu of conventional art materials, Ukiński creates "paintings" from torn paper and household wares, as well as ceramic, macramé, and other natural media. Sculptural reliefs quote from early abstract painting: each wall-mounted work is made up of multiple ceramic components, from sculptures by other artists to classic examples of modernist studio pottery and mass-produced tableware, some of which employ recognizable volcanic glazes as painterly tropes. Relishing the equivalences between common matter and fine art, Ukiński creates color fields out of pencil shavings, while the abrasions of *Untitled (Scuff Marks)* evoke gestural patterns on the gallery floor. Undermining perceived aesthetic hierarchies, Ukiński continues to play upon visual and conceptual paradigms in modernist art.

**Piotr Ukiński** was born in 1968 in Warsaw, Poland, and lives and works in Warsaw and New York. His work has been collected and exhibited by museums worldwide, including Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Britain, London; Francois Pinault Foundation, Venice; and Kunsthalle Basel. In 2006, Ukiński debuted his first feature-length film, *Summer Love: The First Polish Western*. Recent museum exhibitions include "Piotr Ukiński: A Retrospective," Wiener Secession, Vienna (2007); "The Joy of Photography," Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Strasbourg (2007–08); "Mapping the Studio: Artists from the François Pinault Collection," Punta della Dogana and Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2009–11); "2010: Whitney Biennial" (2010); and "Piotr Ukiński: Forty and Four," Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw (2012–13).

A survey exhibition, titled "Piotr Ukiński: ESL," will open at the Bass Museum of Art, Miami, on December 5, 2013.

The forthcoming publication *Second Languages: Reading Piotr Ukiński* (Miami: Hatje Cantz and Bass Museum of Art, 2013) features eleven richly illustrated essays that explore the diverse aspects of Ukiński's oeuvre, while examining the varied conceptual currents running throughout it. *Second Languages: Reading Piotr Ukiński* is edited by Donna Wingate and Marc Joseph Berg.

For further information please contact the gallery at [geneva@gagosian.com](mailto:geneva@gagosian.com) or at +41.22.319.36.19. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

Please join the conversation with Gagosian Gallery on Twitter (@GagosianGeneva) and on Instagram (@gagosiangallery) via the hashtags #Uklanski #Floored.

Image: *Untitled (Scuff Marks)* (detail), 1995, scuff marks on painted concrete flooring

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*Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.*

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