

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY
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Tue–Sat: 10:30am–7:00pm and by appointment



URS FISCHER

Wednesday, 18 September–Saturday, 9 November 2013
Opening reception: Wednesday, September 18th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to present the first exhibition of Urs Fischer's work in Rome.

Fischer's large-scale installations and sculptures posit genres traditionally evoked in painting—portraits, landscapes, nudes, and still lifes—in a profusion of rich, often impermanent sculptural materials. Whether utilizing comestibles such as bread or fruit, or other delicate substances such as candle wax, Fischer mines the literal and metaphorical potential of materials to introduce a fourth dimension—time—into the work.

As the title suggests, in *Horse / Bed* (2013), a horse appears to have fully merged with a hospital bed, whose various parts envelop the animal's head and legs. The horse stands upright, "wearing" the bed like a harness as though nothing is amiss. Digitally combined from 3D scans of a taxidermied workhorse and a hospital bed, and milled from shiny aluminum, the detail of the sculpture's impressive materiality provides an overwhelming amount of information to the naked eye.

Problem Paintings—headshots, both stock and purpose-made, colored and enlarged to different scales, then obstructed by silkscreened images—propose a clash of representational systems that is both convulsive and darkly humorous. A central feature of the exhibition, the monumental *Problem Painting* pairs a woman and an egg; while related works *Innocent Problem*, *Real Problem*, and *Sloppy Problem* (all 2013) introduce other female and male archetypes, similarly obscured by eggs that are either perfectly whole or split open to expose their solid yolks.

A small vase of colorful flowers, carefully positioned in the exhibition, enlivens the room, underscoring Fischer's ongoing explorations with scale, perception, and art's relationship to reality.

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Urs Fischer was born in 1973 in Zurich, and studied at the Schule für Gestaltung, Zurich. His work is included in many important public and private collections worldwide. Recent major exhibitions include the Biennale di Venezia (2003, 2007, and 2011); "Kir Royal," Kunsthaus Zurich (2004); "Not My House Not My Fire," Espace 315, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2004); "Mary Poppins," Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston (2006); "Marguerite de Ponty," New Museum, New York (2009–10); "Oscar the Grouch," The Brant Foundation, Greenwich, Connecticut (2010–11); "Skinny Sunrise," Kunsthalle Wien (2012); and "Madame Fisscher," Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2012). A major two-part survey of his work, which included the massive clay installation *Yes*, produced with 1,500 volunteers, was presented at Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Geffen Contemporary from April to August, 2013.

Fischer lives and works in New York.

For further inquiries please contact the gallery at +39.06.4208.6498 or at roma@gagosian.com. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

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