

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

October 21, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

821 PARK AVENUE
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Tue–Sat 10:00am–6:00pm



DUANE HANSON

Thursday, October 30–Wednesday, December 3, 2014

I want to achieve a certain tough realism which speaks of the fascinating idiosyncrasies of our times.
—Duane Hanson

Gagosian New York is pleased to present Duane Hanson's *Security Guard* (1990).

In his hyper-realistic sculptures portraying working-class Americans, Hanson eschewed the predominant Expressionist and Minimalist concerns of the 1950s and 1960s for an unflinching investigation of the human condition. Early life-size tableaux depicting soldiers killed in action, police brutality, and the homeless confronted viewers with devastating truths largely overlooked in the art of the time.

Throughout his forty-year career, Hanson's uncanny sculptural likenesses of blue-collar workers—repairmen, waitresses, and bricklayers—inhabited exhibition spaces eliciting surprise, embarrassment, amusement, and sympathy from unsuspecting viewers. Although his world-weary figures owe something to Pop and Photorealism, their veracity prompted responses from viewers normally reserved for interactions with other living people. These sculptural illusions, radical in the context of their time, anticipated the later gestures of contemporary provocateurs such as Chris Burden, Maurizio Cattelan, and Fred Wilson.

The appearance of a single uniformed *Security Guard*—leaning against the wall of an otherwise empty storefront gallery, eyes fixed to the floor and shortwave radio in hand—refreshes and updates the visceral experience and critical relevance of Hanson's art for our own time.

Duane Hanson was born in Alexandria, Minnesota in 1925, and died in Boca Raton, Florida in 1996. Selected solo exhibitions include Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (1975); Des Moines Art Center, Iowa (1977); Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (1978); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1979); Kunsthaus Wien, Austria (1992); Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Canada (1994, traveled to Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas); Daimaru Museum of Art, Tokyo (1995, traveled to Genichiro-Inkuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa; and Kintetsu Museum of Art, Osaka); Saatchi Gallery, London (1997); "Duane Hanson, A Survey of his Work from the 30's to the 90's," Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale (1998, traveled to Flint Institute of Arts, Michigan; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis; and "Duane Hanson: More than Reality, 2001," Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2001, traveled to Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan; Kunsthall Rotterdam, The Netherlands; National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh; and Kunsthaus Zürich).

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Image: *Security Guard*, 1990, autobody filler polychromed in oil, mixed media, and accessories, 71 x 26 x 13 inches (180.3 x 66 x 33 cm)

Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.

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