GAGOSIAN GALLERY

March 10, 2015

PRESS RELEASE
GAGOSIAN GALLERY
555 WEST 24TH STREET T. 212.741.1111
NEW YORK NY 10011 E. newyork@gagosian.com
GALLERY HOURS: Tue–Sat: 10:00am–6:00pm

CHAMBERLAIN | PROUVÉ
Friday, February 27–Saturday, April 4, 2015
Opening reception: Tuesday, March 3rd, from 6:00 to 8:00pm

"Every time I turn around I see more openings for the material to do something else."
—John Chamberlain

"It seemed to me that sheet steel offered unlimited possibilities: cut up, then bent, rolled, and welded, it let you create all the profiles you needed for specific purposes, from straight lines to angles to curves."
—Jean Prouvé

Gagosian New York, in collaboration with Galerie Patrick Seguin, Paris, is pleased to present works by American artist John Chamberlain and French architect and designer Jean Prouvé, two twentieth century innovators who harnessed the strength and suppleness of metal to new potential in their respective fields. Large- and small-scale sculptures by Chamberlain will be in visual dialogue with two prefabricated houses and key architectural models by Prouvé.

John Chamberlain began to create distinctive metal sculptures from industrial detritus during the late 1950s. While freely experimenting with a range of inexpensive materials—from paper bags to Plexiglas, foam rubber, and aluminum foil—again and again he returned to metal car components such as bumpers and hoods, which he dubbed “art supplies.” The assemblages preserve traces of his manipulation of machine-made elements: crumpling, bending, twisting, painting and welding steel to form deliberate gestures, he then fused these individual sections into thrilling multi-colored aggregations that range from miniature to monumental. The contrasting parts of the majestic *CLOUDEDLEOPAROEXPRESSO* (2010) suggest clusters of layered, three-dimensional brushstrokes, while the intertwined parts of *ENTIRELYFEARLESS* (2009) appear as a chrome and satin red tangle.

(Continue to page 2)
Jean Prouvé is widely acknowledged as one of the twentieth century’s most influential industrial designers. A self-taught engineer and passionate teacher, metalworker, architect and designer, he brought a strong social conscience to his pragmatic structural approach. Prouvé created furniture for the home, office, and classroom—as well as prefabricated houses, building components and façades—for more than sixty years. Consistent with his belief that “in their construction there is no difference between furniture and buildings,” he applied the same principles used in the making of furniture to his architecture of the postwar reconstruction. Streamlining research, development, and production, he was instrumental in ushering in building processes based on mechanized industry rather than artisanal craft.

The Ferembal Demountable House (1948), designed as the offices of the eponymous tin goods manufacturer, is a quintessential example of Prouvé’s inventive approach in which steel portal frames form a structural core. Rescued from the demolition of the Ferembal site, the house is a striking and eloquent example of the technical and functional virtues of his prefabricated designs, as well as their adaptability. In 2010, at the initiative of Galerie Patrick Seguin, Jean Nouvel adapted and modularized this building, testifying to the enduring relevance of Prouvé’s design and practice.

The asymmetrical Villejuif Demountable House is a lightweight project whose sheet-steel props support a cantilevered wooden roof. It was Prouvé’s response to a 1956 commission for a schoolhouse that could be easily dismantled and relocated. The school was later disassembled and its components used in other buildings. Prouvé’s design and engineering of these versatile structures and their components is now considered to be a milestone in twentieth century architecture.

In combination with Chamberlain, the spare elegance of Prouvé’s architecture underscores the eruptions of form and color that Chamberlain’s sculptures achieved with like materials, a striking intersection of groundbreaking functionality and raw creative exuberance.


For further information please contact the gallery at newyork@gagosian.com or at +1.212.741.1111. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

Press Enquiries
Blue Medium, Inc.
T. +1.212.675.1800
www.bluemedium.com

Contact: Andy Ptaschinski
E. andy@bluemedium.com

Contact: Newlin Tillotson
E. newlin@bluemedium.com

Please join the conversation with Gagosian Gallery on Twitter (@GagosianNY), Facebook (@GagosianGallery), Google+ (@+Gagosian), Instagram (@gagosiangallery), and Tumblr (@GagosianGallery) via the hashtags #JohnChamberlain #JeanProuve #GagosianW24St.

Image: Top: JOHN CHAMBERLAIN, EUPHORIAINAHAT (detail), 2010, painted and chromium plated steel, 92 x 67 5/8 x 55 1/4 inches (233.7 x 171.8 x 140.3 cm) © 2015 Fairweather & Fairweather LTD/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York
Bottom: JEAN PROUVÉ, Ferembal Demountable House, 1948, adaptation Jean Nouvel © Galerie Patrick Seguin/Artists Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris

Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.