

May 18, 2016

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

JEAN NOUVEL

MAY 26–JULY 30, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, MAY 26, 7–9PM

26 ΜΑΙΟΥ–30 ΙΟΥΛΙΟΥ 2016

ΕΓΚΑΙΝΙΑ: ΠΕΜΠΤΗ 26 ΜΑΙΟΥ, 7–9ΜΜ

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

3 MERLIN STREET, ATHENS 10671

ΜΕΡΛΙΝ 3, ΑΘΗΝΑ 10671

+30 210 36 40 215 WWW.GAGOSIAN.COM

IN COLLABORATION WITH GALERIE PATRICK SEGUIN



I want colored mirrors; they are the key to this story. Some are fixed, others shift, others are angled...sometimes two or three models are in different scale; their meaning is established by the interior.
—Jean Nouvel

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to present *Triptyques*, a series of limited edition mirrors, and *Boîte à outils* (Tool Box), a sculpture by Jean Nouvel.

(Continue to page 2)

3 MERLIN STREET ATHENS 10671 T. +30 210 3640215 F. +30 210 3640204

ATHENS@GAGOSIAN.COM WWW.GAGOSIAN.COM

Like many Modernist predecessors who worked across related disciplines, Nouvel describes himself as an architect and a designer. His design products derive from architectural commissions, or from alternative visions that correspond to his building design but which are linked to specific use. Regardless of the scale of the object or the architecture, Nouvel employs the same rigorous approach, imbuing the objects and accoutrements of everyday life with a certain lyricism that is also streamlined and utilitarian.

As the title suggests, *Triptyques* are three-paneled colored mirrors, each in an edition of six. The central panel is fixed to the wall, while flanking and cantilevered panels are engineered to be movable. Four mirrors are presented, each different in color and orientation. Nouvel comments, "The mirror is a piece that you want to live with, in which you reflect intimate images—images from your home; you can capture a piece of a window in it somewhere." Colors range from light orange to blood orange to red, his signature color. The mirror finds its essence whether open or closed. When opened, Nouvel's mirrors evince the importance of color in their surroundings; when closed, they preserve a certain austere elegance.

The extra-large stainless steel tool box titled *Boîte à outils* (1987–2011), meanwhile, is an emblematic and celebrated design. It is an object of function and fantasy at the same time—a deluxe storage system based on the standard toolbox that can be found in every household. Nouvel has reinterpreted this utilitarian staple, streamlining it while endowing it with additional features.

Jean Nouvel was born in Fumel in 1945 and studied at the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris. A key protagonist of intellectual debate in France regarding architecture, he was a founding member of Mars 1976 and Syndicat de l'Architecture. Nouvel's buildings include Musée du Quai Branly, Paris; Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris; Lucerne Culture and Congress Centre, Switzerland; Torre Agbar, Barcelona; and Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis. The Louvre Abu Dhabi, and the National Museum of China (NAMOC) are among the projects currently in planning. Nouvel's distinctions include the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for the Institut du Monde Arabe (1989); the Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects (2001); the Wolf Prize in Arts (2005); and the Pritzker Prize (2008). Exhibitions of his work—including "Jean Nouvel," a retrospective at Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2001)—have been held throughout the world, from New York to Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

In 1995 Nouvel created the Jean Nouvel Design Agency (JND) to develop design and interior design projects in parallel with the architectural practice Ateliers Jean Nouvel. Several series of furniture and industrial objects have been developed and commercialized, from the Less Less collection (Unifor), coffee service (Alessi), lighting (Artemide), chairs (Emeco, Emu, Figueras) and tables (Cassina & Molteni). *Gagosian Gallery, in partnership with Galerie Patrick Seguin, are the sole distributors and producer of Jean Nouvel limited edition furniture.*

For further inquiries please contact the gallery at athens@gagosian.com or at +30.210.36.40.215. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

Please join the conversation with Gagosian Gallery on Twitter ([@GagosianAthens](https://twitter.com/GagosianAthens)), Facebook ([@GagosianGallery](https://www.facebook.com/GagosianGallery)), Google+ ([@+Gagosian](https://plus.google.com/+Gagosian)), Instagram ([@GagosianGallery](https://www.instagram.com/GagosianGallery)), Tumblr ([@GagosianGallery](https://www.tumblr.com/GagosianGallery)), and Artsy ([@Gagosian-Gallery](https://www.artsy.com/Gagosian-Gallery)) via the hashtags #JeanNouvel #GagosianAthens.

Image: *Mirror B*, 2014, walnut and colored mirrors, dimensions variable, edition of 6 © Jean Nouvel Design. Photo by Mike Bruce

Gagosian Gallery was established in 1980 by Larry Gagosian.