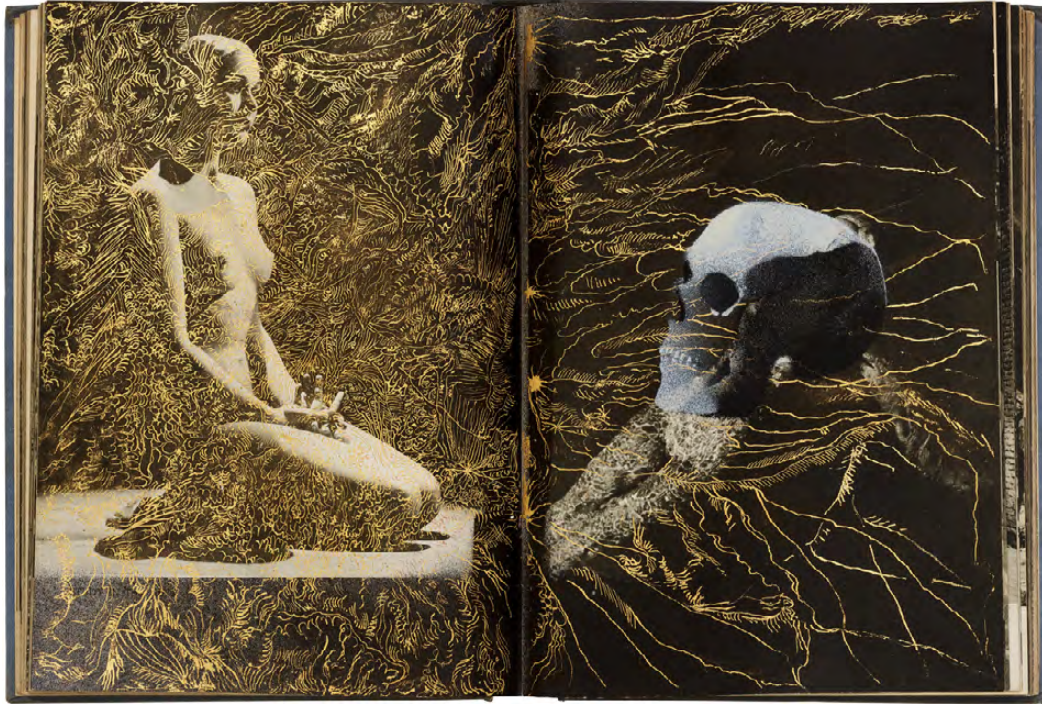


GAGOSIAN

Gagosian to Exhibit New Works by Richard Wright Including Painted Furniture and Books



Richard Wright, *No Title*, 2023, gold leaf and spray paint on found book (*The World's Best Photographs*. London: Odhams Press, c. 1938), 10 × 15 × 1 1/8 inches (25.4 × 38 × 2.8 cm) © Richard Wright. Photo: Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd

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Painting is an act that connects reality and consciousness. It is a performance that awakens the delirium of vision.

—Richard Wright

LONDON, March 17, 2023—Gagosian is pleased to announce an exhibition by Richard Wright featuring painted objects, works on paper, books, and painting executed on the gallery interior.

Wright is known for large-scale and site-specific—but often temporary—painted and applied metal-leaf installations and leaded window works that invest architectural spaces with new optical and associative complexity. Shifting between illusionism and abstraction, his projects alter the viewer's perception of space. Incorporating graphic and ornamental elements, they allude to Minimalism and Renaissance art, as well as to commercial image making. In his stylistically diverse works on paper, Wright employs ink drawing, gilding, printmaking, enamel, and watercolor painting techniques.

A new site-specific painting at the Davies Street gallery incorporates the surfaces of an internal door, Wright once again disrupting the traditionally static relationship between artwork and viewer by drawing attention to an architectural feature that, while habitually considered purely functional, maintains a rich symbolic history. In mythology, religion, and literature, doors suggest the transition from one world to another; in psychology and psychoanalysis, they represent choices and decisions. Painting on a large twentieth-century wood solicitor's deeds cabinet, Wright recasts the still-functional piece as a vessel of abstract visuality. The gridded design, characteristic of his most recent work, suggests patchwork quilts or tiled walls, while also evoking the dizzying retinal effects of Op art.

In several painted book works, Wright layers designs over the printed pages of much-loved volumes from his personal collection, in some cases improvising on their existing illustrations, in others obscuring the images entirely or adding images to text. These works evoke a wide variety of sources and references, from medieval illuminated manuscripts to Tom Phillips's painted and collaged bookwork *A Humument: A Treated Victorian Novel* (1966–2022), in which the artist transforms an obscure original into an entirely new personal narrative.

Fully and actively engaged with the history of design as well as of abstract and figurative painting, Wright approaches making book works as if authoring visual-verbal guides to his practice as a whole. The same could be said for his drawn and painted works on paper, which are similarly intricate and immersive. The pages of some are covered with thousands of delicate strokes; elsewhere, more fluid organic designs, kaleidoscopic patterns, and typographic extrapolations predominate, sometimes betraying an ongoing interest in Russian Constructivism.

A major monograph on the artist documenting projects from the past ten years will be published by Gagosian in June.

Richard Wright was born in 1960 in London, and lives and works in Norfolk, England, and Glasgow, Scotland. Exhibitions include Kunsthalle Bern (2001); Tate Liverpool, England (2001); Dundee Contemporary Arts, Scotland (2004); Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, Italy (2005); *Works on Paper*, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow, Scotland (2012); and Theseus Temple, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna (2013). Wright participated in Manifesta 2, Luxembourg (1998); the British Art Show 5 (2000); and the 55th Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2008). Permanent commissions include the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (2007); Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2010); Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam (2013); Tate Britain, London (2013); Queen's House, London (2016); and Tottenham Court Road station (Elizabeth Line), London (2018). Wright won the Turner Prize in 2009.

#RichardWright

RICHARD WRIGHT

Opening reception: Wednesday, March 29, 6–8pm

March 29–May 13, 2023

17–19 Davies Street, London

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