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Jeff Koons Opens Solo Show At Gagosian Hong Kong

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*Jeff Koons, Hulk (Friends), 2004 - 2012, Polychromed bronze, 71 1/4 x 48 1/2 x 26 inches, 181 x 123.2 x 66 cm, Edition of 3 plus 1 AP (© Jeff Koons)*

HONG KONG — American artist Jeff Koons opened his first major solo exhibition in Asia at Gagosian Hong Kong on November 6.

Deftly interposed between his major career retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York earlier this summer and another large-scale exhibition at the Pompidou Center scheduled to open later this month, “Jeff Koons: Hulk Elvis” showcases precision-machined bronze sculptures from his ongoing series that are inspired by inflatable figures of the popular comic book character, transplanted into a three-dimensional format. These range from large paintings that combine figuration and abstraction, to polychromed sculptures that resemble vinyl inflatable toys in their seductive surface glossiness. In a playful variation on the inflatable theme, “Hulk (Organ)” (2004-14) features keys, pipes, and a pedalboard protruding from the torso and body of the Hulk that allows it to also function as a musical instrument.

For Koons, the emblem of Hulk seemed particular apropos given the cultural setting and context of Hong Kong. “Hulk Elvis represents for me both Western and Eastern culture, a sense of a guardian, a protector, that at the same time is capable of bringing the house down.”

*“Jeff Koons: Hulk Elvis” runs at Gagosian Hong Kong from November 6 through December 20, 2014.*