

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Sterling Ruby Mines His Studio and a Sub for Gagosian Paris

Nicholas Forrest



Sterling Ruby

(Photo by Melanie Schiff. Courtesy Sterling Ruby Studio and Gagosian Gallery.)

Gagosian Gallery is presenting American artist Sterling Ruby's first solo exhibitions in Paris at its Rue de Ponthieu and Le Bourget galleries from October 18 to December 19, 2015. Best known for his multifaceted practice, which spans painting, ceramics, collage, video, and photography, textiles, sculpture, and installations, Ruby is one of the world's most influential contemporary artists.

Central to the exhibition at Gagosian Le Bourget are the artist's new "YARD" paintings. The textural, celestial "studioscapes" are executed using rollers and brooms on a canvas laid directly on the studio ground, a process that imprints the characteristics and debris of the floor onto the surface. On the edges of each painting, Ruby has attached fabric, cardboard, and other studio fragments.

"The studio has become a kind of excavation site for me. Years of accumulated material and work are spread through the buildings, almost like a dumping ground. This setting has taken my work to another level of cycling through materials," Ruby explains.

"There is this idea that projects are laid to rest, but over time these things that are always present as material or as remnants are dug up and reassessed, catalysts are created between works from the past and new works."

The Gagosian Le Bourget show features a series of new sculptures made from industrial parts sourced in the vicinity of Ruby's LA Studio, including an American submarine. Resembling bulldozers, drag cars, and plows, the battleship-gray hybrid abstractions are juxtaposed with a series of soft sculptures that resemble overturned lit candlesticks as well as a selection of the artist's vast bleach-stained black fleece "DEEP FLAG" works.