

GAGOSIAN GALLERY
GARAGE

Franz West: Man With a Ball

By Maresa Harvey



A major exhibition of sculptural works by the late contemporary artist Franz West is now on display at the Gagosian Gallery. Following his recent death, the exhibition pays tribute to the artists' dedication, passion and ability in his practice. Having contributed over three decades of work to galleries across the globe, this most recent solo show provides a celebration of his achievements and provides the continued recognition that he deserved.

Recent works created by West continue to explore and emphasise his interest in the function of art itself. Four immense, towering and coiling assemblages are particularly notable. Their clumsy, 'cartoonish' shapes protrude through the gallery space. Intended to be used both indoors and outside, their construction reiterates West's desire to create sociable, aesthetically inclined environments. Visitors are encouraged to interact and engage with their forms, blurring and challenging preconceived boundaries between 'art' and 'life.'

Other pieces within the show include Ecke, an installation incorporating fourteen of West's own maquettes for large-scale sculptural projects with miniature cardboard "models." Here West creates scenes that directly enact an active relationship to the art works; dismissing traditional notions of passivity with regards to our engagement with art objects.



In addition to such sculptural works, collages incorporating advertisements and magazine pages, painted over in a haphazard hand; further exemplify the distinctive and extensive oeuvre of the artist.

West's use of colour, scale, material and shape are playful and light-hearted, allowed him to have developed an imitable aesthetic. There is a humour in his use of form that makes his practice unique and endearing to view and experience.