

GAGOSIAN



FRIEZE LONDON

Booth E3

October 3–6, 2019
Regent's Park, London

Sterling Ruby, *WIDW. HELIOS (7090)*, 2019, acrylic, oil, cardboard, and treated fabric on canvas, 72 × 52 inches (182.9 × 132.1 cm) © Sterling Ruby

October 2, 2019

Gagosian is pleased to participate in Frieze London 2019 with *HELIOS*, a solo booth with new paintings, collages, and sculpture by Sterling Ruby. This presentation will coincide with Ruby's exhibition, *ACTS + TABLE*, at Gagosian Britannia Street, London.

Employing diverse aesthetic strategies and mediums, Ruby's work engages autobiography, art history, and balances of societal pressure and power. *HELIOS*, which takes its name from the ancient Greek sun deity, comprises works from three of Ruby's ongoing series and brings the concepts of archaeology, burial, and reanimation into the realm of the artist's studio.

On view at Frieze London is *HELIOS BOAT* (2019), one entry from Ruby's *Basin Theology* (2009–) series. To make these large-scale pieces, Ruby arranges broken and cast-off scraps from his various ceramics projects in a flat-bottomed vessel and fires the entire assembly together. Glazed in dripping layers of red and pale yellow, *HELIOS BOAT* evokes the texture and appearance of tissue, fat, and human viscera, breathing new life into these fragments while simultaneously alluding to their history of rejection and destruction.

Ruby transfers the haunting, organic aesthetics of his ceramic work to the two-dimensional paper surface with his *DRFTRS* (2012–) series. These “hybrid collages,” as he calls them, resemble blasted landscapes: photographic cutouts of bones, metal, stalagmites, and trash heaps are framed against a sky of explosive paint-splatter clouds. Dwarfed by their surroundings, the collaged fragments drift across apocalyptic topographies, leaving only the most ephemeral of trails behind them.

In his *WIDW* (2016–) paintings—titled after an elided form of “window”—Ruby returns to the idea of the studio as a site of excavation and rediscovery, this time pasting squares of cardboard and patterned fabric over vibrant, thickly applied coats of acrylic and oil paint. These geometric collage elements demarcate the canvas into halves and smaller rectangles, transforming Ruby’s compositions into gridded windowpanes that offer a glimpse into the strata of his studio practice. A larger horizontal work from the *WIDW* series is also included in Ruby’s presentation with the Online Viewing Room, at gagosianviewingroom.com.

Sterling Ruby was born in Bitburg, Germany, in 1972, holds American and Dutch citizenship, and lives and works in Los Angeles. Collections include Centre Pompidou, Paris; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate, London; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Exhibitions include *GRID RIPPER*, Galleria d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, Italy (2008–09); *DROPPA BLOCKA*, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium (2013); *STOVES*, Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris (2015); *Belvedere*, Vienna (2016); *Ceramics*, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa (2018, traveled to Museum of Arts and Design, New York); and *Sculpture*, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas (2019). A comprehensive survey of Ruby’s work will be exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (November 2019–February 2020), and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (February–May 2020). Ruby participated in the Taipei Biennial, Gwangju Biennale, and Whitney Biennial in 2014; and *Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only*, the Hammer Museum’s third biennial. In June 2019, Ruby launched his ready-to-wear clothing label, S.R. STUDIO. LA. CA., after debuting at Pitti Uomo Immagine 96 in Florence, Italy.

To receive a PDF with detailed information on the works, please contact the gallery at inquire@gagosian.com.

To attend the fair, purchase tickets at frieze.com.

#FriezeArtFair

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