

GAGOSIAN



THE ARMORY SHOW

Pier 94, booth 601

March 5–8, 2020

Piers 90 and 94, New York

Rudolf Polanszky, *Reconstructions*, 2015, cardboard, aluminum, fiberglass, resin, and acrylic on linen, in artist's frame, 83 1/2 × 105 1/2 inches (211.9 × 268 cm) © Rudolf Polanszky. Photo: Thomas Lannes

March 2, 2020

Gagosian is pleased to participate in the Armory Show 2020 with a solo booth of recent paintings and sculptures by Rudolf Polanszky. This presentation will coincide with an exhibition of Polanszky's work at Gagosian, 541 West 24th Street, New York, inaugurating his representation by the gallery.

An important contributor to the artistic landscape of Vienna, Polanszky creates cerebral multidisciplinary works that embrace chance occurrence. Growing up in the immediate wake of the Viennese Actionist movement of the 1960s, he began his career making satirical films, paintings, and performance art pieces that mischievously countered the Actionists' graphic focus on living bodies in their own notorious performance works. Maintaining a fundamentally improvisational practice,

he marries conceptual philosophies with varied modes of production, creating compositions that oscillate between dual identities as concrete objects and symbols of subjective perception.

In the early 1990s, Polanszky pivoted away from the legacy of Actionism, turning his attention instead to the formal possibilities of mixed-media painting and sculpture with the ongoing series *Reconstructions* (1991–). To make these works, he uses salvaged industrial materials such as acrylic glass, aluminum, cardboard, fiberglass, mirrored foil, resin, and silicone, recombining them into purely aesthetic shapes divorced from their original contexts. He often leaves his raw materials outside, letting the elements help determine the work’s final appearance. Working according to an improvisational impulse that he calls “ad-hoc synthesis,” Polanszky generates new meaning from the negotiation between conscious strategy and randomness in the artistic process.

Dating from 2013 to 2016, the wall-mounted *Reconstructions* presented at the Armory Show feature sheets of aluminum affixed to unprimed canvases at haphazard angles. Polanszky then layers translucent pools of resin and fractured panels of acrylic glass on top, producing silver-toned tableaux that spark an interplay of shimmering, reflective planes and weathered textures. Also on view are two sculptures from 2008 and 2014 that transfer Polanszky’s signature process to a floor-based setting. He composes these freestanding works from similarly repurposed materials, employing their jutting, irregular shapes to create curving silhouettes that are elegant and austere in appearance while still retaining a rough-hewn grittiness that divulges their industrial origins.

Rudolf Polanszky was born in 1951 in Vienna, where he currently lives and works. Collections include the Rubell Museum, Miami; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris; Werkstadt Graz, Austria; Landessammlungen Niederösterreich, St. Pölten, Austria; Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus, Austria; Sammlung SpallArt, Salzburg, Austria; and Belvedere Museum, Vienna. Recent solo exhibitions include *Translinear Structures*, Zeit Kunst Niederösterreich, Krems an der Donau, Austria (2015); *Paradox Transformations*, Museo Madre, Naples, Italy (2015–16); and *Eidola*, Secession, Vienna (2018).

To receive a PDF with detailed information on the works in Gagosian’s booth at the Armory Show, please contact the gallery at inquire@gagosian.com.

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

#TheArmoryShow

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