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michel majerus
gemälde

november 8, 2022 - january 14, 2023

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neugerriemschneider is pleased to present our tenth solo exhibition of work by Michel Majerus. For *gemälde*, the artist's monumental first show with the gallery is recreated at our Linienstrasse location. A free-standing, to-scale replica of its original site in Berlin-Charlottenburg houses the works that were on display in 1994, paying tribute to the artist's innovative practice and re-extending his invitation to experience and engage with painting in new ways.

From November 19 to December 23, 1994, *gemälde* showcased a room-filling grouping of new work by Michel Majerus in neugerriemschneider's then-recently inaugurated gallery at Goethestrasse 73. The space housed an installation of a wall painting, works on canvas, drawings and a reproduced segment of a curved street. While varied in style and process, these all displayed the distinct qualities and conceptual underpinnings that would become emblematic of the artist's practice. Majerus used this early exhibition to further establish his nonhierarchical handling of imagery and technique, and his reuse of motifs, self-reference and the juxtaposition of textures, affirmatively pushing painting into a spatial dimension.

With his all-enveloping presentation, he deployed an adept, varied navigation of scale to create works that reacted to and took full advantage of the gallery's confines - wrapping around its doorway and covering its surfaces, ultimately encapsulating the artist's overall approach and placing the viewer within pictorial space. With *enlarge-o-ray ... on!* (1994), painted on the gallery's rear wall, Majerus directly cites popular culture with references to a Roger Rabbit comic, overlaid with a small canvas callout that shows the narrative's following scene ("too big ... better turn off") and integrates with its backdrop. Inked renditions of Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner feature on a scroll of wallpaper, layered under painted allusions to the work of figures such as Frank Stella and Willem de Kooning, among others. *sauerei* (1994), a two-part, oil-and-acrylic canvas nearly spans the entirety of the room's opposing face, in an expressive composition that gives way to obscured, cartoon-derived illustrations and the textual fragment "Dead suckers" - one that had appeared in his previous work and hints at his artistic forbearers. Supplementing the wall works is a replicated, winding excerpt of a street placed inside the gallery. A portion of neugerriemschneider's original tiled floor is left still visible, marking the asphalt as a makeshift stage, and providing a metaphorical and literal road along which to discover Majerus' installation.

gemälde is part of the Germany-wide exhibition series *Michel Majerus 2022*, dedicated to the artist's generation-defining work and presented to commemorate the 20th anniversary of his passing. In five unique solo exhibitions taking place at the Michel Majerus Estate (April 28, 2022 - March 18, 2023), KW Institute for Contemporary Art (October 22, 2022 - January 15, 2023), neugerriemschneider (November 8, 2022 - January 14, 2023), Kunstverein in Hamburg (November 12, 2022 - February 12, 2023) and Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (December 17, 2022 - February 5, 2023), Michel Majerus' oeuvre is honored on an unprecedented scale. In parallel with these exhibitions, 13 museums throughout Germany present works by Michel Majerus from their collections. A comprehensive catalogue featuring contributions by Cory Arcangel, Karen Archey, Diedrich Diederichsen, Brigitte Franzen and Rirkrit Tiravanija to be published in spring 2023 will accompany this series of exhibitions. In addition, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami presents the first institutional solo exhibition of the artist's work, on view from November 29 - March 12, 2023, while Mudam in Luxembourg hosts their key Majerus exhibition from May 31 to October 15, 2023.

Michel Majerus (1967 - 2002) produced a prolific body of work that represents some of the first examples of artistic engagement with the then-nascent digital age. Characterized by omnivorous visual sampling, Majerus' work draws freely on a wide range of motifs to create paintings, prints and installations that continue to resonate today, and have become part of the art history in their own right. He has been the focus of solo exhibitions at international museums and institutions including Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Bielefeld (2018); CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux (2012); Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart (2011); Mudam, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg (2006); Kunsthaus Graz, Graz; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Deichtorhallen, Hamburg; Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover (all 2005); Tate Liverpool, Liverpool (2004); Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin (2003); and Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (1996), and took part in the 48th Venice Biennale (1999) and Manifesta 2 (1998).

For further press information and imagery, please contact Jonathan Friedrich Stockhorst at neugerriemschneider: +49 30 288 77277 or jonathan@neugerriemschneider.com.