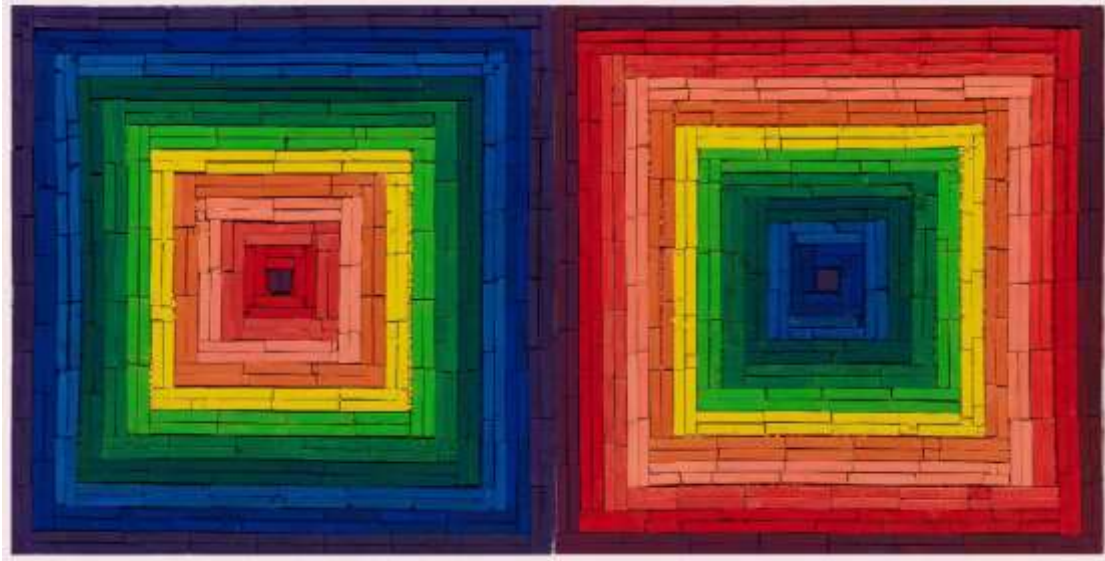


BEN BROWN FINE ARTS



Vik Muniz, *Metachrome (Double Scramble, after Frank Stella)*, 2016, archival pigment print, edition of 6 + 4 AP, 101.6 x 201.4 cm. (40 x 79 1/4 in.) & edition of 6 + 2 AP, 149.9 x 297.2 cm. (59 x 117 in.)

VIK MUNIZ

METACHROMES

6 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2016

PRIVATE VIEW WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER, 6-8PM

Ben Brown Fine Arts is thrilled to announce its first solo exhibition in London with internationally acclaimed artist, Vik Muniz. The exhibition debuts Muniz's most recent series, *Metachrome*, as well as brand new works from his iconic *Pictures of Pigment* series.

Muniz is renowned for his ingenious employment of a wide range of materials, including dust, sugar, chocolate, diamonds, caviar, toys, paper hole-punches, junk, dry pigment and magazine shreds, to reconstruct images that tap into the viewer's subconscious visual repository and beg for further investigation. As Muniz notes, "sometimes we want to know how things are made. Sometimes we don't." Muniz's *Metachrome* works are exceptionally rich in allusion – they challenge the issue of materiality by leaving the medium (pastel sticks) literally embedded in the work; and the resulting photographs become not just images of something, but works about paint, about creating art and about colour itself.

Muniz's *Metachromes* are constructed of sticks, crumbs and traces of pastels. With these he recreates masterpieces ranging from those of Turner and the Impressionists who were pushing the limits of the brilliant new hues available to them (*A Disaster at Sea aka The Wreck of the Amphitrite, after William Turner, Flowers, after Vincent van Gogh, Still Life with Begonias, after Paul Cézanne* and *Flowers, after Odilon Redon II*, all 2016) to the immense oil and acrylic expanses of Abstract Expressionist painters (*Double Scramble, after Frank Stella* and *No. 3/No. 13, after Mark Rothko*, both 2016) where the use and choice of colour in paint was paramount. While colour was a key preoccupation for these artists, Muniz refocuses attention on the painting's materials, compelling the viewer to consider the basis of its making and colouring.

Muniz sees his *Metachrome* series as a continuation of his earlier *Pictures of Pigments* series, in which colour itself became the subject. In this exhibition Muniz returns to *Pictures of Pigments* with *Monochrome, Pink-Blue-Gold, after Yves Klein* (2016), an homage to Klein's celebration of raw, synthetic pigment. The impermanence of materials and composition is present in many of Muniz's images, but the issue is brought into sharp focus by his use here of coloured powders, calling to mind Buddhist sand mandalas. And when colour itself becomes the subject, we are forced to consider the technologies of photography and to remember their compromises and imperfections.

The artist will be present at the opening and a catalogue will be produced with an essay by Philip Ball.

NOTES TO EDITOR

Artist biography

Vik Muniz was born in São Paulo in 1961 and currently lives and works in both New York and Rio de Janeiro. His work has been exhibited in prestigious institutions worldwide. These include the International Center of Photography, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Menil Collection, Houston; Museu de Arte Moderna São Paulo; Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome; Irish Museum of Contemporary Art, Dublin; Tel Aviv Museum, Israel; and Long Museum, Shanghai. His work also features in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Art Institute of Chicago; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; and Tate, London.

In 2001 Muniz represented the Brazilian Pavilion at the 49th Venice Biennale. Vik Muniz is the subject of an Academy Award-nominated documentary film entitled *Waste Land* (2010) and serves as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

Ben Brown Fine Arts

Founded in 2004, Ben Brown Fine Arts is located on Brook's Mews in the heart of Mayfair. The gallery has prominently positioned itself on the contemporary art scene with the sole UK representation of artists such as Ron Arad, Tony Bevan, Ori Gersht, Candida Höfer, Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, Gavin Turk, Not Vital and Heinz Mack. Also renowned for its strong expertise in 20th century Italian art, the gallery has been exhibiting the work of Lucio Fontana and Alighiero Boetti, amongst others, since its inception. In 2009 Ben Brown Fine Arts took their first step in an international expansion with the opening of an exhibition space in Hong Kong.

FOR FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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