

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS



Vik Muniz, *Metachrome (Flowers, after Odilon Redon II)*, 2016, archival pigment print, edition of 6 + 4 AP, 101.6 x 128.3 cm; (40 x 50 1/2 in.) & edition of 6 + 2 AP, 160 x 201.9 cm; (63 x 79 1/2 in.)

VIK MUNIZ METACHROMES

18 JANUARY – 11 MARCH 2017
PRIVATE VIEW TUESDAY 17 JANUARY, 6-8PM

Ben Brown Fine Arts is pleased to announce its third solo exhibition in Hong Kong with internationally acclaimed artist Vik Muniz. The exhibition presents Muniz's most recent series, *Metachrome*, as well as new works from his renowned *Pictures of Pigment* series.

Muniz is celebrated 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. His material constructions are photographed, then either magnified or shrunken in scale, the final work of art a documentation of his conceptual and artistic processes.

Muniz's *Metachromes* are constructed of sticks, stubs, fragments and dust of pastel sticks deftly arranged to re-imagine iconic paintings, forcing the viewer to move beyond the instantaneous recognition of such masterpieces and explore the materiality, chromatic range and painterly process of these works. Muniz travels through art history, from the work of Impressionists who were pushing the limits of representation and colour at the time (*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 works of the Abstract Expressionists (*Double Scramble, after Frank Stella* and *No. 3/No. 13, after Mark Rothko*, both 2016) where the use of colour and form was paramount to the visual and spiritual effect of the painting. Muniz challenges the viewer to look at these

historic paintings through a new lens, focusing the attention on the literal creation of the works and the richness and purity of each colour used.

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 use of pure, unmixed and often toxic pigment powders in this series epitomizes the artist's preoccupation with the ephemerality of material and composition, and also achieves a remarkably textural effect in the resultant photograph.

NOTES TO EDITOR

Artist biography

Vik Muniz was born in São Paulo, Brazil, in 1961 and currently lives and works in both New York and Rio de Janeiro. His work has been exhibited at prominent institutions around the world, including 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

Established in London in 2004, Ben Brown Fine Arts 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 & François-Xavier Lalanne, Heinz Mack, Vik Muniz and Gavin Turk. The gallery is also renowned for its expertise in 20th century Italian art, holding seminal exhibitions of artists such as Alighiero Boetti and Lucio Fontana. In 2009, the gallery took its first step in international expansion with the opening of an exhibition space in Hong Kong. Designed by André Fu, Ben Brown Fine Arts Hong Kong was the first Western gallery to open in the iconic Pedder Building, offering a programme of international art exhibitions tailored to the Asian market. Since its inception, the Hong Kong gallery has hosted exhibitions of gallery artists such as Ron Arad, Miquel Barceló, Candida Höfer, Claude & François-Xavier Lalanne, Heinz Mack and Vik Muniz as well as presented exhibitions of important modern artists, most notably Alighiero Boetti and Pablo Picasso.

FOR FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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