

## Press release

May 2016

Mark Handforth

**Snow White and Pink Panther**

June 12 to July 23, 2016

Maag Areal, Zahnradstr. 21, 8005 Zurich, rooftop terrace, 5<sup>th</sup> floor

Opening on Saturday, June 11, 6 to 8 pm

Tuesday – Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5 and by appointment

**Special opening times during the Zurich Art Weekend: June 11/12, 10 to 8 and during Art Basel: June 13 – 20, 10 to 6 and by appointment**

Galerie Eva Presenhuber is pleased to present two new sculptures *Snow White* and *Pink Panther* by the British artist Mark Handforth (\* 1969 in Hong Kong, lives and works in Miami). It is his fourth solo exhibition with the gallery.

Mark Handforth's work is centred around the sculptural vocabulary of urban areas and familiar elements of day-to-day life (traffic signs, street lamps, motor scooters, truck wheels, hydrants, neon tubes, or candles). He adapts them by either remodelling them or by replicating them on an often considerably larger scale – which, in many cases, creates uncertainty as to whether the pieces are ready-mades or not. Yet this is, as a matter of fact, irrelevant: Handforth doesn't pursue any documentary interests; rather than wanting to reproduce reality, he arranges familiar everyday elements in such a way that they create new points of reference. In this regard, allusions to literature and society are given the same consideration as art-historical implications. Handforth is an eloquent multilingual voice-artist who narrates our own history within an artistic context.

The sculpture, *Snow White* (2016), is a monumental white star, constructed from folded aluminium and painted to reflect light and absorb shadow, *Snow White* is equal parts unhinged signage, dislocated symbol and artefact of humanity. Stars, as we see them in the night sky, are just endless lines of pulsing light radiating out indefinitely, energetic beginnings with no end in sight.

In Handforth's other sculpture on view, *Pink Panther* (2016), an aluminium pipe has been bent by sheer force exerted onto it, until the pipe finally succumbed to the pressure. Yet this supposed act of destruction has resulted in a form, an inevitable star. Standing aloof and balanced on one leg, *Pink Panther* stands apart with absurd poise. Its rather strange matte pink colour (itself the counterintuitive camouflage paint devised by the British for desert ops, and which gives the sculpture its title) is as theatrical as it is self-effacing.

For Handforth, art is of particular interest when it collides with reality. In 2013, he conceived a sculpture for Maagplatz as part of the event *Gasträume 2013 – Public Art in Zurich*. His two new sculptures are now towering over this location – on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor rooftop terrace of Galerie Eva Presenhuber's exhibition and office spaces on the Maag – Areal. The terrace offers a unique view of Zurich and even of the mountains on a clear day. With the Prime Tower directly next to it, this location makes for an exciting urban setting for both works.

In contrast to art in public spaces, for example on a square or in a park, the space on the rooftop terrace is much more limited: While they can be spotted from further away, such as from the bridge opposite the building, the sculptures are supposed to be seen from a much closer distance and experienced in a much more physical manner. The space is negotiated between the works, the beholder's body and the architectural setting, concretely the terrace's rails. The sculpture's monumental scales can only be experienced in direct relation to one's own body.

Solo museum exhibitions include Kunsthaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland (2005); *Concentrations 51: Mark Handforth*, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, United States (2007); Kunstneres Hus (with Urs Fischer and Georg Herold), Oslo, Norway (2009); *MCA Chicago Plaza Project: Mark Handforth*, MCA Chicago, United States (2011), *SMOKE*, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Villa Croce, Genova, Italy (forthcoming June 2016).

Major museum group exhibitions include *The Uncertainty of Objects and Ideas: Recent Sculpture*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., United States (2006); *FIVE BILLION YEARS*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2006); *Pivot Points: Defining MOCA's Collection*, MOCA Miami, United States (2008); *Room to Live: Recent Acquisitions and Works from the Collection*, MOCA Los Angeles, United States (2013); *Two Old Bananas*, CASS Sculpture Foundation, Chichester, UK (2015); *Ugo Rondinone: I LOVE JOHN GIORNO*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2015).

For more information, please contact Andreas Grimm ([a.grimm@presenhuber.com](mailto:a.grimm@presenhuber.com)) at the gallery.

Current exhibitions: Joe Bradley, Canton Rose  
June 12 to July 23, 2016  
Maag Areal, Zahnradstrasse 21, 8005 Zurich  
2nd floor  
Tue – Fri 10-6, Sat 11-5 and by appointment

Walead Beshty, Automat  
June 12 to August 27, 2016  
Löwenbräu Areal, Limmatstrasse 270, 8005 Zurich  
1st floor  
Tue – Fri 11-6, Sat 11-5 and by appointment

Torbjørn Rødland, Matthew Mark Luke John and Other Photographs  
June 12 to August 27, 2016  
Löwenbräu Areal, Limmatstrasse 270, 8005 Zurich  
2nd floor  
Tue – Fri 11-6, Sat 11-5 and by appointment