
LEHMANN MAUPIN

David Salle

September 8—November 12, 2016

407 Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Hong Kong

#davidsalle | @lehmannmaupin

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 8, 6-8PM



Smoke Kools, 2014-16, oil and acrylic with silkscreen and digital and transfer prints on canvas and linen, 67 x 92 in, 170.2 x 233.7 cm. © David Salle, licensed by VAGA. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong.

Hong Kong, July, 2016—**Lehmann Maupin** is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by **David Salle**; the American artist who has long been regarded as a leader in the return to figurative painting in the 1980s. During that period, Salle helped define and develop the postmodern sensibility that sought to deconstruct any hierarchy between image and meaning, and allowed for a fluid dialogue between all of the arts—performance, literature, music, visual art, and media. By combining figuration with a varied pictorial language, Salle creates complex visual narratives that draw inspiration from art history, advertising, design, and American culture. Salle's most recent body of work exemplifies his continued commitment to exploring the

lehmannmaupin.com

536 West 22nd Street
New York NY 10011
Telephone +1 212 255 2923

201 Chrystie Street
New York NY 10002
Telephone +1 212 254 0054

407 Pedder Building
12 Pedder Street
Central Hong Kong



thematic and formal possibilities of painting, and the development of his rich visual language. **There will be an opening reception at the gallery in Hong Kong on Thursday, September 8, 2016 from 6-8PM.**

In 1993, Salle created his *Early Product Paintings*, a series in which flatly painted backgrounds of collaged advertisements served as backdrops for the artist's performative and improvised interventions. His most recent work revisits the 1993 series and further highlights, even more intensely, Salle's ability to create complex images composed of varied gestures, colors, and forms that offer multiple readings. By layering silkscreened or transfer-print photographs of a hooded figure, images of 1950s and 60s Americana, free-hand charcoal drawing, as well as abstract marks, the artist builds compositions that challenge our assumptions of how to experience and understand a painting. Though he incorporates recognizable images—a snowman, a waffle, a camera lens, a car—these references are not intended as a specific commentary on a time period or object. Rather, each work is an investigation of the myriad possibilities of painting itself, and how the images and marks join together to create a poetic field that explores the "what and how" of a composition. Each image, as well as each mark, adds a certain flavor, scent, or tone that contributes to the overall harmony of the work. The paintings offer, first and foremost, a rich visual experience—they are not intended to be simply "understood" in a literal manner. For Salle, a painting is never one thing, but the sum of the elements and styles he forcibly brings together to create an image.

Salle's oeuvre grows out of a long-standing involvement with performance and film. He often references cinematic devices—close-ups, zooms, montage, splicing—that ultimately become a visible part of his each painting's narrative. In two of the pieces included in this exhibition, *Buick-Town* and *Smoke Kools*, Salle incorporates a photo-transfer print of a hooded figure. That figure is Massimo Audiello (currently a gallerist in Mexico City), who came to New York from Italy in the 1980s to be an actor/performer. Salle took the photos during a series of spontaneous performances that Audiello staged in his studio in the early 1990s, using paintings-in-progress as his backdrops. The repeated inclusion of this image 25 years after it's original creation, reiterates the importance of cinema and photography, and more significantly, highlights the central role performance—improvisation, character, play, and absurdity—has played in the development of Salle's art. The artist considers the act of painting itself as inherently performative; it is something someone does, physically, in a specific moment in time and as such is both un-predictable and un-repeatable.

About the artist

David Salle (b. 1952, Norman, Oklahoma; lives and works in New York). He received both a B.F.A. and an M.F.A. from the California Institute of Arts, Los Angeles (1973 and 1975). Solo exhibitions of his work have been organized at Dallas Contemporary, Dallas (2015); The Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago (2014); Metropolitan Opera House, New York (2012); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Mexico (2000); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1999); Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung, Ludwig, Vienna (2000); Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy (2000); Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain (1999). In 1987, at age 34, Salle was the youngest artist ever to be honored with a mid-career survey exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Select group exhibitions featuring his work include *America is Hard to See*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2015); *This Will Have Been: Art, Love, & Politics in the 1980s*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Walker Art Center Minneapolis and Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2012); and *The Pictures Generation*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2009). His work is in numerous international public and private collections including Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Tate Modern, London; and Walker Art



Center, Minneapolis. Salle is also a prolific writer on art. His essays and reviews have been published in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Modern Painters*, and *The Paris Review*, as well as numerous exhibition catalogs and anthologies. A recent volume of Salle's collected essays, *How to See*, will be published by W.W. Norton in October 2016.

About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Mr., *Sunset in My Heart*, through August 12, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

Repossession, through August 12, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street

Radical Materiality, through August 27, 2016, Hong Kong

Alex Prager, *La Grande Sortie*, September 7—October 23, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street

OSGEMEOS, *Silence of the Music*, September 8—October 22, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

Liu Wei, November 3—December 18, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street & Chrystie Street

Mickalene Thomas, November 18, 2016—January 14, 2017, Hong Kong

For more information on David Salle or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan or Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923, or visit lehmannmaupin.com.

###

