

HAUSER & WIRTH

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Press Release

Diana Thater Chernobyl

Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly

28 January – 5 March 2011

Opening: Thursday 27 January 6 – 8 pm

A new video installation by Diana Thater fills the interior of Hauser & Wirth's Piccadilly gallery with images of the post-nuclear landscape of Chernobyl. For this work, Thater spent time in the 'Zone of Alienation' which surrounds the site of the nuclear disaster, filming the eroded architecture and wildlife of the one-hundred mile wide radioactive territory. The animals she films have managed to survive amid the devastation of the only existing post-human landscape, demonstrating a wilderness of man's making. The installation focuses on the rare and endangered Przewalski's Horse. Once facing certain extinction in its native habitat in central Asia, this sub-species of the wild horse now roams freely in the 'Zone of Alienation'.



The desolate remains of an abandoned movie theatre in Prypiat, a city founded to house the Chernobyl nuclear plant workers, form the backdrop of Thater's installation. The city's decomposing architecture is juxtaposed against the footage of the wild animals living in the 'Zone of Alienation'. Through this installation, visitors experience a world where a man-made catastrophe has abruptly halted all progress and animals inhabit an irradiated landscape. Overlaying physical and filmic spaces, Thater confronts the successes of civilisation with its profound failure.

For over two decades Thater has explored the precarious relationship between culture and nature. Frequently using animals and natural phenomena as subjects, her video installations are compositions of time and space. Their precisely choreographed imagery forms temporal abstractions that immerse the viewer in ambient environments and invite new ways of seeing the world.



Diana Thater was born in 1962 in San Francisco CA. She studied at New York University and Art Center College of Design, Pasadena CA, and lives and works in Los Angeles CA. Thater began exhibiting her video installations in 1990 and her work has featured in numerous significant international exhibitions. Solo shows at major institutions include 'Diana Thater: Between Science and Magic', Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica CA (2010); 'gorillagorillagorilla', Kunsthaus Graz, Austria (2009); 'Keep the Faith. A Survey Exhibition', Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, Germany and Kunsthalle Bremen, Germany (2004); 'Knots + Surfaces', DIA Center for the Arts, New York NY (2001); 'Projects 64: Diana Thater: The

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best animals are the flat animals', Museum of Modern Art, New York NY (1998); 'Diana Thater. Orchids in the Land of Technology' at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN (1997) and 'China', The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, Chicago IL (1995).

About Hauser & Wirth

Hauser & Wirth is an international gallery, founded in Zurich in 1992 by Iwan and Manuela Wirth and Ursula Hauser. In 1996 the Zurich gallery opened in the former Löwenbräu brewery building, along with other contemporary art galleries, the Kunsthalle Zürich, and the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst Zürich.



In 2003, Hauser & Wirth opened Hauser & Wirth London on Piccadilly in an historic building designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, adding a new and energetic dimension to London's growing importance as an international art centre. Hauser & Wirth's outdoor sculpture programme, inaugurated in September 2009, is located behind the Piccadilly gallery in Southwood Garden, St James's Church. In 2006, Hauser & Wirth at Colnaghi was created on London's Old Bond Street. Hauser & Wirth New York opened to the public on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in September 2009. In September 2010, Hauser & Wirth re-located their Zurich space to a new temporary location at Hubertus Exhibitions while the Löwenbräu building undergoes major renovation.

In October 2010 Hauser & Wirth opened its new gallery at 23 Savile Row. Offering 15,000 square feet of exhibition space, the gallery provides an outstanding setting for larger exhibitions and more expansive installations. In addition, 7,000 square feet of the building's first floor has been developed for an extensive library and archive and new offices.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Berlinde De Bruyckere
'Into One-Another To P.P.P.'
1 March – 23 April 2011
Hauser & Wirth New York

Ida Applebroog
17 March – 30 April 2011
Hauser & Wirth London, Savile Row

Dieter Roth
'Reykjavik Slides (31,035) Every View of a City'
17 March – 30 April 2011
Hauser & Wirth London, Savile Row

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Chernobyl
2010
Installation: 6 projectors, 6 media players, Lee Filters
Installation view, 'Chernobyl', Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly, 2011
© Diana Thater
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Peter Mallet

Peonies
2009
Installation: 9 monitors, 1 DVD player, 1 DVD
Installation view, 'Chernobyl', Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly, 2011
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Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Photo: Peter Mallet