

HAUSER & WIRTH

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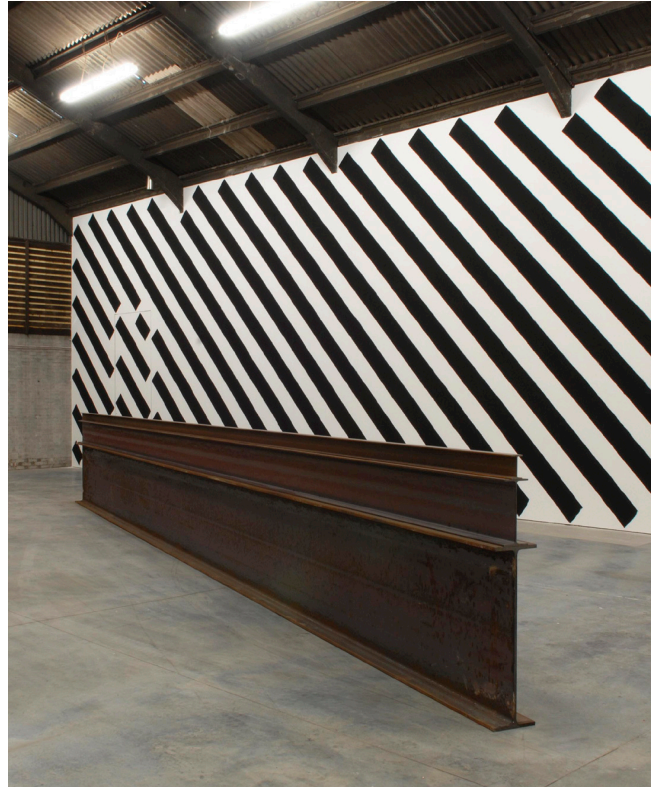
Press Release

Martin Creed

Hauser & Wirth Outdoor Sculpture
Southwood Garden, St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly
From 6 September 2010

Hauser & Wirth continues its outdoor sculpture programme with Martin Creed's 'Work No. 700' (2007), three progressively slimmer steel I-beams balanced on top of each other. The rusted steel I-beams are twelve metres long and neatly stacked, discarding their previous functionality to form a whole in keeping with Creed's distinctive 'artistic logic'.

The piece is the largest realised work from Creed's 'Stack' series, a pyramidal compositional system that the artist has applied to media as diverse as cardboard boxes, plant pots, chairs, and painted lines; each ordered according to size, ascending or descending in incremental steps. Ordinary life in all of its variety is submitted to this no-nonsense rigour, creating works of art characterised by a comforting simplicity. 'I think of a lot of my art as a simple frame through which people can see all the chaos of the world', Creed has said. 'It is like graph paper laid over a chaotic scene, and that's how it can be helpful or a comfort. Because life is just wild'.



Eschewing the label of 'conceptual artist', Creed is concerned with the stuff of the world and the range of feelings this inspires. The use of industrial material and the scale of 'Work No. 700', as well as its formal directness and economy of means, recalls the works of Minimalist artists. Yet in contrast to Minimalism's quest for an aesthetic of purity, Creed's steel girders are left in their used, practical state. Order co-exists with imperfection, with uncontrolled details that give the sculpture its character and particularity. According to the critic Martin Herbert writing about this piece for Art Monthly, 'There is deep pleasure in this confluence of discipline and forgiveness, the admirable lunge for perfection offset by a recognition that we cannot reach it in real life'.

Creed was born in Wakefield, England in 1968, and grew up in Glasgow. He lives and works in London. He has exhibited extensively worldwide, and in 2001 won the Turner Prize for 'The lights going on and off'. Recent major solo exhibitions and projects include 'Things', The Common Guild, Glasgow (2010); 'Work No. 409', Royal Festival Hall Elevator, London (2010); 'Work No. 245', Centre Pompidou-Metz (2009); Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan (2009); Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2008); and the Duveen Commission, Tate Britain,

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London, England (2008). His work will be a major presence at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival: 'Martin Creed Down Over Up' opens at The Fruitmarket Gallery on 30 July, running until the end of October; 'Work No. 1020', a dance performance directed, choreographed and composed by Creed which premiered last year at Sadler's Wells can be seen at the Traverse Theatre on 8 August and 10 – 15 August; and a permanent sculpture by Creed sees the city's historic Scotsman Steps resurfaced with different marbles from all over the world. A major solo exhibition of new work by Creed will open at Hauser & Wirth's new Savile Row space in January 2011.



'Martin Creed: Works', published by Thames & Hudson, will be available from the end of July. The publication is a comprehensive survey of Creed's art featuring more than 700 works with a foreword by the artist and essays by Germaine Greer, Matthew Higgs, Barry Humphries and others.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Anj Smith
'Geometry of Bliss'
7 September – 2 October 2010
Hauser & Wirth New York

Jason Rhoades
'1:12 Perfect World'
24 September – 18 December 2010
Hauser & Wirth London

Subodh Gupta
25 September – 13 November 2010
Hauser & Wirth Zürich

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Work No. 700
2007
Steel I-beams
145.4 x 29.4 x 1200.2 cm / 57 1/4 x 11 5/8 x 472 1/2 in
Installation view, Hauser & Wirth Coppermill, London, England, 2007
© Martin Creed
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth
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