

Richard Meier at Stroganov Palace St. Petersburg

Galerie Gmurzynska is pleased to announce an exhibition by the seminal architect Richard Meier, which will open on October 30th 2014 at the Stroganov Palace, an 18th-century imperial residence once belonging to the Stroganov clan, themselves famous collectors and patrons of the arts during their time. Today this splendid location forms part of The State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg.

Coinciding with and honoring the artist's 80th birthday this autumn, this wide-ranging museum exhibition comes on the heels of the showcase „Richard Meier – Timepieces“ Galerie Gmurzynska presented at their premises in Zurich from October through December in 2013. Galerie Gmurzynska is proud to creatively work with Richard Meier whose collages were not only featured during the gallery's presentation at Art Basel Miami Beach in 2013 but who further conceived the design for the gallery's booth.

Through his vivid and handsome collages Meier offers a rare autobiographical glimpse into the myriad facets of the visual environment and sources making an impact on his everyday experience and trains of thought. Culled from books, magazines and newspapers alongside personal yet disposable effects such as museum and travel ticket stubs, cigarette packaging and the occasional loose drawing by hand, the collages unfold as an equally pop cultural and art-historical cross section in diaristic fashion. Neatly yet casually arranged into formally crisp compositions, the collages mirror Meier's predilection as an architect for the modernist grid and a purist rectangular arrangement of components that make a visually inviting structure. In this, the collages not only formally pay tribute to the modern and clean graphic and geometric aesthetics advanced by Russian avant-garde artists from El Lissitzky to Rodchenko; Meier further explicitly foregrounds this art-historical lineage by incorporating reproductions of Suprematist and Constructivist works by such artists into his collages. There they share the stage not only with other iconic art from a Western canon but with a highly individual material selection eliciting the breadth of human stimuli: from celebrity culture to classical nudes, from global politics to personal erotica and snapshots.

On the occasion of this exhibition Galerie Gmurzynska in collaboration with The State Russia Museum is publishing a richly illustrated catalogue in English and Russian containing an introduction by Evgenia Petrova, Deputy Director of Academic Research at The State Russian Museum. The catalogue further features scholarly essays by Semyon Mikhailovsky, Head of the St. Petersburg State Academic Institute of Art and curator of the Russian pavilion for the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale and Ekaterina Klimova, Head of the Department of Engravings of the 18th to 21st centuries at The State Russian Museum.

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