

# HAUSER & WIRTH

## Press Release

### RICHARD JACKSON WORKS

Hauser & Wirth Zurich, Limmatstrasse  
2 September – 23 December 2022



A pre-eminent figure in American contemporary art since the 1970s, Richard Jackson is influenced by both abstract expressionism and action painting. His work explores a performative painting process that extends the potential of his chosen medium by upending its technical conventions. Returning to Hauser & Wirth Zurich's gallery on Limmatstrasse this September, Jackson will debut an interactive 'Shooting Gallery' (2020), the most recent example of his 'painting machines' which will be activated by the artist in the ground floor space. In addition, the exhibition presents a survey of Jackson's Neon works from the past 30 years, works on paper and a new installation titled '1000 Pictures' from the artist's seminal Stacked Paintings series, consisting of one thousand painted canvases that the artist made by hand.

Throughout his career, Richard Jackson (born in Sacramento, California in 1939) has produced site-specific installations that relay a preoccupation with the painting process. The structural aspect of his installations involves a high level of craftsmanship and engineering; however, the final application of paint is generated through an automated process which Jackson calls 'activation.' He often equips his 'painting machines' with a network of pipes and hoses which, when deployed, cause eruptions of paint that immerse the work and often the surrounding area. Jackson's aim has always been to stretch the limits of the medium of painting and to challenge its conditions and working methods: 'It is my idea to try to expand painting, not just in size but to see how far it could be extended or pushed. I don't feel my work as a criticism of painting but an optimistic view of what it could be. I felt then and I still feel that painting doesn't need to be an area of art described by the materials that are used (...).'

For this exhibition in Zurich, Jackson has created the installation 'Shooting Gallery' (2020), an impressive structure that the artist made during lockdown in his studio in Los Angeles, California. Recreating a fairground shooting range inspired by Swiss and American carnivals, Jackson responds to the high-mindedness of

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painterly practice by repositioning painting as an everyday experience. The artist shoots a paintball gun onto a targeted canvas to create an original painting whilst tiny metal creatures around the edges of the canvas are pulled by a mechanical chain. Despite the craftsmanship that goes into creating the structure of Jackson's 'Shooting Gallery', the artist is primarily interested in the process of creating a work of art, rather than its object quality. With the viewer left to grapple with the aftermath of Jackson's activation, the artist states that his work 'is evidence of a work performed, of process'.



The exhibition also presents a survey of Jackson's Neon works from the past three decades, including new works made in 2022. Mounted onto the gallery wall or positioned on plinths, Jackson's neon signs flash with puns or statements that engage with the artist's longstanding interest in hunting culture and its vernacular, seen in works such as 'HOTSHOT' (2022), 'Big Pig' (2007) and 'deer beer dick duck' (1999). In 'Ain't Painting a Pain' (2009), the word 'PAINTING' lights up in multiple stages, offering an ironic comment on the heroic pretensions associated with the medium, whereas works such as 'Art Fair Party' (2014) are a direct and humorous critique of the structure of the commercial art world. In addition, a selection of technical drawings of the Neons and other works are on view, showcasing Jackson's commitment to executing complex structures himself.

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Jackson's DIY approach is no better exemplified than in his renowned Stacked Paintings, a series that the artist has worked on for the past 50 years which offers a crucial insight into his expansion of painting. For Zurich, the artist has created a new work titled '1000 Pictures' (2022). Jackson individually stretches, paints and stacks a thousand canvases by hand, creating a work which collapses distinctions between painting, sculpture, installation and performance. The artist denies any sort of pictorial representation from the canvas' surface through stacking the paintings face down whilst wet, also transforming the commodity-element traditionally associated with painting. Ultimately, for Jackson, paint is not a tool used to create a representational image, but a ubiquitous liquid which is spurted, splattered and sprayed onto his installations. 'RICHARD JACKSON WORKS' is a testament to Jackson's pioneering and subversive creative process which continues to fuse architectural and sculptural concerns in order to explore and energise the limits of painterly practice.

### About the artist

Born in Sacramento, California in 1939, Jackson first came to international attention with a major presentation of his installation works at the Menil Collection, Houston, in 1988, followed by the 1992 exhibition, 'Helter Skelter,' at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art. His work has since been the subject of solo exhibitions globally at institutions including Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, France; S.M.A.K. Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent, Belgium; Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin, Germany; Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA and more.



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## For additional information, please contact:

Anna-Maria Pfab, Hauser & Wirth, [annamariapfab@hauserwirth.com](mailto:annamariapfab@hauserwirth.com), +41 79 965 50 89 (Europe)

Maddy Martin, Hauser & Wirth, [maddymartin@hauserwirth.com](mailto:maddymartin@hauserwirth.com) +44 7585 979564 (Europe)

## Hauser & Wirth Zurich, Limmatstrasse

Limmatstrasse 270  
8005 Zürich

### Opening hours:

Tue – Fri, 11 am – 6pm

Sat, 11 am – 5 pm

[www.hauserwirth.com](http://www.hauserwirth.com)

### Caption and courtesy information:

Richard Jackson  
Art Fair Party  
2014  
Neon (blue, orange), metal box (yellow, red)  
33 x 127 x 11.5 cm / 13 x 50 x 4 1/2 in  
© Richard Jackson  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth  
Photo: Fredrik Nilsen

Richard Jackson  
Shooting Gallery  
2021  
Mixed media  
Dimensions variable  
© Richard Jackson  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth  
Photo: Jeff McLane

Richard Jackson  
Big Pig  
2008  
Neon (110 V/60Hz), metal box  
30 x 26.5 x 10.5 cm / 11 3/4 x 10 3/8 x 4 1/8 in  
Pedestal: 100 x 30.5 x 14.5 cm  
© Richard Jackson  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth  
Photo: Stefan Altenburger Photography Zürich

Richard Jackson  
Big Pig  
2007  
Pencil and oil paint on mylar  
106.7 x 106.7 cm / 42 x 42 in  
© Richard Jackson  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth  
Photo: Stefan Altenburger Photography Zürich

Richard Jackson  
5050 Stacked Paintings (detail)  
1998  
Acrylic on canvas and wood, 5050 parts  
284 x 1364 x 1275 cm  
© Richard Jackson  
Image © Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof,  
SMB, Gift of the Friedrich Christian Flick Collection.  
Photo: Thomas Bruns.

Richard Jackson, 2022. © Richard Jackson.  
Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth.  
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