

Nasher Sculpture Center



Press Release

Nasher Sculpture Center Announces *Mark Grotjahn Sculpture*

DALLAS, Texas (May 13, 2014) – The Nasher Sculpture Center is pleased to present *Mark Grotjahn Sculpture* from May 31 to August 17, 2014. The Nasher's exhibition, the first museum presentation to focus exclusively on Grotjahn's sculpture, will highlight many new, never-before-seen, three-dimensional works.

"Even for those who have followed Mark Grotjahn's work closely, the sculptures in this exhibition may surprise," said Nasher Director Jeremy Strick. "Varying markedly in scale and proportion, and dramatically marked by the artist's hands and remnants of the casting process, these objects--derived from the most humble of materials--speak to Mark Grotjahn's ever increasing sculptural ambition and confidence. While they reference essential themes in the history of modern sculpture, these works still shock by their audacity and beauty."

Los Angeles-based artist Mark Grotjahn came to prominence for large, richly worked paintings that evoke aspects of both the modernist tradition as well as the contemporary revival of interest in the medium. In two different series—the *Face* and the *Butterfly* paintings—Grotjahn used essential subjects to explore textures, colors, and form with refreshing boldness and almost hallucinogenic intensity. Alongside his paintings, Grotjahn has been working privately on sculpture for over a decade.

Ranging in size from medium to large-scale free standing works, the sculptures derive from common cardboard boxes and tubes that have been combined and cut to roughly resemble masks or faces, then scraped, cast in bronze, and either left raw or elaborately painted. Grotjahn has intentionally retained the bronze remnants of the wax casting sprues used to feed molten bronze to the sculpted form and remove steam during the lost-wax casting process. The resulting constructions are a complex hybrid of sculpture and painting, often strongly declaring themselves as sculptural objects while simultaneously dissolving into lusciously painted surfaces.

Grotjahn's sculptures rehearse and revise many of the key themes in modern art, including the complex relationship of modernism to tribal arts, and the interplay between abstraction and figuration. Rough and rudimentary, as well as vibrantly colorful and at times sensuous and elegant, Grotjahn's sculptures employ the essential minimalist form—the box—and extend the exploration of the painted object practiced by modern artists like Pablo Picasso, Jean Dubuffet, and Alberto Giacometti.

A free didactic brochure available at the admission desk will provide additional information for better understanding Mark Grotjahn's extraordinary painted sculptures with the contexts of the artist's development and the art of previous century. The exhibition also will be accompanied by a lavishly illustrated catalogue featuring a new essay by noted scholar John C. Welchman, Professor of Art History, Theory and Criticism at the University of California, San Diego. *Mark Grotjahn Sculpture* is

generously underwritten by Resolution Capital, LLC, Iris and Adam Singer, and Cindy and Howard Rachofsky.

About the Nasher Sculpture Center:

Open since 2003 and located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Nasher Sculpture Center is home to one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculptures in the world, the Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, featuring more than 300 masterpieces by Calder, Giacometti, Matisse, Picasso, Rodin, and more. The longtime dream of the late Raymond and Patsy Nasher, the museum was designed by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano in collaboration with landscape architect Peter Walker.

Hailed by the "USA Today" as one of the great sculpture gardens where art enhances nature, the roofless museum seamlessly integrates the indoor galleries with the outdoor spaces creating a museum experience unlike any other in the world. On view in the light-filled galleries and amid the landscaped grounds are rotating works from the Collection, as well as blockbuster exhibitions and one-of-a-kind installations by the most celebrated artists of our times. In addition to the indoor and outdoor gallery spaces, the Center contains an auditorium, education and research facilities, a cafe, and a store.

The Nasher brings the best of contemporary culture to Dallas through special programs designed to engage visitors, including artist talks, lecture programs, contemporary music concerts, educational classes and exclusive member events.

The Nasher Sculpture Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm and until 11 pm for special events, and from 10 am to 5 pm on the first Saturday of each month. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for members and children 12 and under, and includes access to special exhibitions. For more information, visit www.NasherSculptureCenter.org.

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