

Jannis Kounellis

Blain|Southern

Potsdamer Strasse 77-87

10785 Berlin

17 November– 26 January 2013

Private View: Friday 16 November,

6 – 9pm



Untitled, 2012, iron, coats and string, 200 x 180 x 10 cm

The directors of Blain|Southern are delighted to present an exhibition of new and recent works by Jannis Kounellis. Renowned for his pivotal role in the development of the *Arte Povera* movement in the 1960s, over the last 50 years Kounellis has continued to redefine artistic practice through his original use of materials.

His works, a mixture of painting, collages, installations, 'environments', performances and theatrical shows, are made of everyday materials, such as soil, coal, stones, sacks, fire, live animals, bed frames and doorways, as well as *objets trouvés*. These are imbued with dramatic power, evoking history, memory and the reality of our present day experience, expressing the underlying tensions within contemporary society, and the multiplicity and fragmentation of its language.

In this century Kounellis has developed an increasingly architectural vocabulary, typified by the labyrinth he constructed in the main hall of Berlin's Neue Nationalgalerie for his 2008 retrospective. Working in dialogue with the Mies van der Rohe designed building, the structure served as a complete environment in which to exhibit examples of his earlier works. His exhibition at Blain|Southern will be in a similar vein, with sculptural installations that respond to the gallery's vast, post-industrial space.

For further information on the exhibition, please contact Mark Inglefield
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Notes to Editors:

Jannis Kounellis was born in 1936 in Piraeus, Greece. In 1956 he moved to Rome and enrolled in the Accademia di Belle Arti. While still a student he had his first solo show, titled *L'alfabeto di Kounellis*, at the Galleria la Tartaruga, Rome, in 1960. Kounellis has since exhibited all over the world and is represented in major museum collections internationally. From the 70s until today, his work has been shown extensively internationally. He has taken part in seven editions of the Venice Biennale since 1972. His work was also featured at the Documenta in Kassel in 1972 and 1982. In the last decade Kounellis has staged major exhibitions at Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome (2002), Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina in Naples (2006), Neuenational Galerie in Berlin (2008), Herning Museum of Contemporary Art (2010), Today Art Museum, Beijing (2011), National Centre for Contemporary Art, Moscow (2011) and Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens (2012), among others. The artist lives and works in Rome.