BLAIN|SOUTHERN

Revolt of the Sage

Curated by Simon Moretti and Craig Burnett

24 November 2016 — 21 January 2017

Private View: 23 November, 6–8pm

Blain|Southern
4 Hanover Square
London W1S 1BP

Paloma Varga Weisz, *Woman, boarded,* 2016
Courtesy the artist and Sadie Coles HQ, London

Revolt of the Sage is an exhibition featuring sixteen artists that takes its title from a work by Giorgio de Chirico painted in 1916. *The Revolt of the Sage*[1] is an example of what the artist would call a 'metaphysical interior', and yet its crowded pictorial space overflows with ephemeral things: frames, measuring devices and biscuits. Objects pile up and overlap, while a strange perspective recedes into an irresolvable background. What did the artist mean by a 'metaphysical interior'? In a letter to Apollinaire, written around the time he painted *The Revolt of the Sage*, de Chirico describes two realms: our finite condition, and its loss and longing, and a metaphysical realm where time does not exist.

> *It has been almost two years now since I've seen you. The Ephesian teaches us that time does not exist and that on the great curve of eternity the past is the same as the future. This might be what the Romans meant with their image of Janus, the god with two faces; and every night in dream, in the deepest hours of rest, the past and future appear to us as equal, memory blends with prophecy in a mysterious union.*
>
> Giorgio de Chirico to Apollinaire, July 1916

Picking up on de Chirico's vision of a 'metaphysical interior', *Revolt of the Sage* gathers a range of artists who use collage, juxtaposition, fragments, framing devices and layered imagery to explore ruptures in time and the alluring mysteries of the everyday. The exhibition features new and existing work by contemporary artists alongside late post-War artists such as Lynn Chadwick, Hanne Darboven and Sigmar Polke.

Curated by artist-curator Simon Moretti and Craig Burnett, Blain|Southern's Director of Exhibitions, the exhibition emerged from the thought that de Chirico's 'Metaphysical Aesthetics' would resonate with artists whose work inhabits that chasm between the here and now and a dream of 'the great curve of eternity' that we might perceive in a small, measurable work of art.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Blain|Southern will publish a book that features a newly commissioned interview between art historian Ara H. Merjian and philosopher Jesse Prinz, alongside existing texts by Giorgio de Chirico, John Ashbery, Lydia Davis, Apollinaire and others.

Artists:

Horst Ademeit
Lynn Chadwick
Hanne Darboven
Haris Epaminonda
Geoffrey Farmer
Jannis Kounellis
Mark Lewis
Goshka Macuga
Christian Marclay
Simon Moretti
David Noonan
Sigmar Polke
Erin Shirreff
Michael Simpson
John Stezaker
Paloma Varga Weisz

Notes to Editors

[1] The title of the de Chirico painting retains the definite article, so the work is referred to as *The Revolt of the Sage* whereas the exhibition title is *Revolt of the Sage.*

About the artists

Horst Ademeit (b. 1937 – 2010, Germany) lived and worked in Düssledorf. Exhibitions include: *Horst Ademeit: Living in the radiant cold,* Delmes & Zander, Berlin, DE (2016); *System and Vision,* David Zwirner, New York, USA (2015); *A House of Leaves. First Movement*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK (2012); *Secret Universe,* Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, DE (2011).

Lynn Chadwick (b. 1914 – 2003, United Kingdom) lived and worked in Gloucestershire. Exhibitions include: *Lynn Chadwick, Retrospective for Two Gardens*, Bardini Gardens and Boboli Gardens, Florence, IT (2015); *Lynn Chadwick RA*, Royal Academy of Arts Courtyard, London, UK (2014); *Documenta III*, Kassel, DE (1964); *New Aspects of British Sculpture*, British Pavilion, XXVI Biennale, Venice, IT (1954).

Hanne Darboven (b. 1941 – 2009, Germany) Exhibitions include: *Musée à vendre pour cause de faillite. Herbert Foundation and mumok in Dialogue*, Museum Moderner Kunst, Stiftung Ludwig, Wien, AT (2014); *El tiempo y las cosas. La casa estudio de Hanne Darboven,* Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, ES (2014); *WHEN ATTITUDES BECOME FORM: BERN 1969/VENICE 2013*, Fondazione Prada, Venice, IT (2013); *Big Picture III (Szenen/Figuren)*, K 21 Ständehaus, Düsseldorf, DE (2012).

Haris Epaminonda (b. 1980, Cyprus) lives and works in Berlin. Exhibitions include: *L'Image Volée*, Fondazione Prada, Milan, IT (2016); *The Order Of Things: Cinematic Moments*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA (2013); *Chapters*, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, UK (2013); *Projects 96*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA (2011).

Geoffrey Farmer (b. 1967, Canada) lives and works in Vancouver. Exhibitions include: Canadian Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Venice, IT (2017) ; *Geoffrey Farmer,* The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, USA (2016); *A Brief History of the Future*, The Louvre, Paris, FR (2015); *The Surgeon and the Photographer*, The Curve Gallery, Barbican, London, UK (2013); *Let's Make the Water Turn Black*, Migros Museum of Contemporary Art, Zurich (2013), Nottingham Contemporary, UK (2013); *dOCUMENTA 13*, Kassel (2012); Stage Presence, San Francisco Musuem of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA (2012).

Jannis Kounellis (b. 1936, Greece) Exhibitions include: *Jannis Kounellis*, MAC USP - Museum of Contemporary Art, University of São Paulo, BR (2016); *Jannis Kounellis: Relámpagos sobre México,* Museo Espacio del Macro Espacio, Aguascalientes, MX (2016); *Codice Italia*, Padiglione Italia, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, IT (2015); *Kounellis: Danza della Morte*, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin, DE (2011).

Mark Lewis (b. 1958, Canada) lives and works in London. Exhibitions include: The Contemporary Austin, Texas, USA (2016); *How to learn from things that don't exist,* Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, PT (2015); *Mark Lewis,* Musée du Louvre, Paris, FR (2014); *How to learn from things that don't exist*, 31st São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo, BR (2014); *Mark Lewis*, L'Espace de l'Art Concret, Château de Mouans, FR (2013); *Mark Lewis*, Kunsthalle Winterthur, CH (2011).

Goshka Macuga (b. 1976, Poland) lives and works in London. Exhibitions include: *Now this, is this the end... the end of the beginning or the beginning of the end?*, Schinkel Pavilion, Berlin, DE (2016); *To the Son of Man Who Ate the Scroll*, Fondazione Prada, Milan, IT (2016); Accrochage, Pinault Collection at Punta della Dogana, Venice, IT (2016); *Time as Fabric*, New Museum, New York, USA (2016); dOCUMENTA (13), Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, DE and Queen's Palace, Kabul, Afghanistan (2012).

Christian Marclay (b. 1955; California, USA) lives and works in London and New York City. Recent solo exhibitions include *Christian Marclay: Six new animations*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (2016), *The Clock,* LACMA, Los Angeles, USA (2015); *Christian Marclay*, White Cube, London, UK (2015); *Fluxmix,* Art Basel Unlimited, Basel, CH (2014); *Seven Windows*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012).

Simon Moretti (b. 1974, United Kingdom) lives and works in London. Exhibitions include: *The Camera Exposed*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK (2016); *The Art Parade*, Deitch Projects, New York, USA

(2007); *Dadadandy Boutique*, Artprojx Space, London, UK (2008); *The Sleep of Ulro*, with Goshka Macuga, A Foundation, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK (2006); *Thank You for the Music,* Sprüth Magers, London, UK (2006); *None of the Above*, Swiss Institute, New York, USA (2004).

David Noonan (b. 1969, Australia) lives and works in London. Exhibitions include: *David Noonan,* Xavier Hufkens, Brussels (2015); *One Day, Something Happens: Paintings of People,* Leeds Art Gallery, UK (2015); *The Age of Aquarius*, The Renaissance Society, The University of Chicago, USA (2011); *British Art Show 7: In the Days of the Comet*, UK (2011).

Sigmar Polke (b. 1941- 2010, Germany) Exhibitions include: *Sigmar Polke,* Palazzo Grassi, Venice, IT (2016); *Sigmar Polke: Early Prints,* Städel Museum, Frankfurt, DE (2016); *International Pop*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA (2015); *Black Sun*, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen, CH (2015); *Alibis: Sigmar Polke, 1963–2010,* The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA (2014).

Erin Shirreff (b. 1975, Canada) lives and works in New York City. Exhibitions include: *Halves and Wholes*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH (2016); *L'image volée*, Fondazione Prada, Milan, IT (2016); Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, USA (2016); Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, Boston, USA (2015); *Photo-Poetics: An Anthology*, Kunsthalle Deutsche Bank, Berlin, DE (2015); *The Locker Plant*, Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas, USA (2011).

Michael Simpson (b. 1940, United Kingdom) lives and works in Wiltshire, UK. Exhibitions include: British Council Touring show. The Painting Show. (2017); *Flat Surface Painting,* Spike Island, Bristol, UK (2016); John Moores Painting Prize (2016); *Tightrope Walk*, White Cube, London (2015), *Study #6. Michael Simpson*, David Roberts Arts Foundation, London, UK (2014).

John Stezaker (b. 1949, United Kingdom) lives and works in London. Exhibitions include: *L'Image Volée*, Fondazione Prada, Milan, IT (2016); *John Stezaker: Working from the Collection*, Les Rencontres Arles Photographie, Arles, FR (2016); *Orpheus Twice*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK (2013); *John Stezaker,* Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK (2011).

Paloma Varga Weisz (b. 1966, Germany) lives and works in Düsseldorf. Exhibitions include: *Paloma Varga Weisz*, Fürstenberg Zeitgenössisch, Donaueschingen, DE (2016); *Cloud and Crystal – Jackson Pollock Meets Bruce Nauman*, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, DE (2016); *Mother of the Year. Between Empowerment and Crisis: Images of Motherhood from 1900 to Today,* Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz, Austria (2015); *NO MAN'S LAND: Women Artists from the Rubell Family Collection*, Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, USA (2015); *Krummer Hund*, Kabinett für aktuelle Kunst, Bremerhaven, DE (2013).

About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern is a contemporary and modern art gallery based in London and Berlin. The gallery represents an international roster of contemporary artists and is the world-wide representative of The Estate of Lynn Chadwick. The gallery's recent exhibitions include: Michael Joo, Bosco Sodi, Harland Miller, Chiharu Shiota, Ed Moses and Bruce Nauman.

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Monday to Friday: 10am - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm

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+44(0) 20 7493 4492
blainsouthern.com

For further information on the exhibition, please contact Laura Callendar at Blain|Southern

T: +44 (0) 20 7493 4492
M: +44 (0) 79 3904 9731
E: laura@blainsouthern.com