

MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lecture: ALAIN BADIOU
Contemporary Art Confronting the 21st Century

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2015 - 7PM

Location: 88 Eldridge Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10002

Miguel Abreu Gallery is pleased to welcome back French philosopher Alain Badiou for the second time in two months, on Saturday February 7th, this time for a lecture on the state of contemporary art: *Contemporary Art Confronting the 21st Century*. The event will take place at 88 Eldridge Street and is free to the public. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the arts, the twentieth century has seen a succession, and often an intertwining of three periods, three styles: first, the consequences of the “modern revolution” initiated in the second half of the nineteenth century, which disrupted the paradigms of mimesis in painting, tonality in music, versification in poetry, and narration in the novel. Then came the various avant-gardes, which radicalized this era of fundamental transformation by proposing new configurations and yet unknown constructivisms, as well as risked aesthetic gestures at the limits of non-art: abstraction, serialism, futurism, conceptualism, surrealism... Finally, postmodernism ushered in a kind of complete and cumulative freedom, allowing all styles and aiming, beyond experimental combinations, at new possibilities of circulation between art forms with distinct origins and particular techniques.

Under new conditions, the twenty-first century faces a technical challenge comparable only to the invention of the printing press, or to the emergence of oil painting: the ability to digitize, including basic creative gestures, affords a sort of independence to the term “art” from the notion of “craft.” Artistic contexts of a semi-industrial type have appeared, and moreover, the systematic occupation by artists in the West of wastelands left by deindustrialization has become a major symbol of the period: creation nowadays takes place in old automobile factories and workshops, in outdated giant cold storage warehouses, in the huge debris of assembly line labor, in sawdust, tar, and gasoline. What will come out of this? Let us make a few assumptions...

—Alain Badiou

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 10:30AM to 6:30PM and by appointment
Subway: F to East Broadway; B, D to Grand Street; J, M, Z to Delancey / Essex Street