

VENUS

MANHATTAN | LOS ANGELES

JACK GOLDSTEIN

September 12 – October 21, 2017

Opening Tuesday, September 12th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

VENUS

980 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10075

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



(New York, NY) – VENUS is pleased to present *Jack Goldstein*, its third exhibition of work by the late member of the Pictures Generation, Jack Goldstein. Comprised of seven monumental paintings, one large-format work on paper, and six rarely exhibited sixteen-millimeter films, the exhibition will be on view from September 12th through October 21st, 2017. *Jack Goldstein* is VENUS's third solo presentation of work by the artist, following 2012's *Where Is Jack Goldstein*, and 2013's *Où est Jack Goldstein*, produced in collaboration with Galerie Perrotin, Paris.

Jack Goldstein rose to prominence in the late 1970s as a leading figure of the Pictures Generation, a group of artists based in New York whose work exploited “quotation, excerptation, framing, and staging” to reflect upon the power of representation. [1] Goldstein moved to New York in 1974 with

Helene Winer, after finishing graduate school at CalArts, where he worked primarily in performance and video under John Baldessari. He continued to make films in New York, and in 1977, Douglas Crimp included a group of them in an exhibition called *Pictures* at Artists Space, then under Winer's directorship. Along with Troy Brauntuch, Sherrie Levine, Robert Longo, and Philip Smith, who were also included in the exhibition, Jack Goldstein came to represent a new sensibility in contemporary art. Goldstein's films quickly established him as the progenitor of an emerging appropriative strategy, which traded in the forms of mass media to challenge notions of originality, ownership, and authenticity. Goldstein's work, as well as the response to his films included in *Pictures*, provided the conceptual framework for much of the most celebrated work of the 1980s, and along with artists like Sarah Charlesworth, Louise Lawler, Richard Prince, Cindy Sherman, and Laurie Simmons, Jack Goldstein came to define the Pictures Generation through his appropriative techniques and manipulation of popular imagery.

On view in the gallery is a selection of Jack Goldstein's early sixteen-millimeter films, all of which predate *Pictures* by at least five years. Made available from the artist's estate exclusively for the gallery's exhibition, six films will loop on two screens: *A Nail* (1971), *A Glass of Milk*, *A Spotlight*, *Focus*, and *Some Plates* (all 1972), will screen in the reception gallery, and one of Goldstein's earliest films, *There/Roomdefinition* (1971), will loop in a purpose-built viewing room. Goldstein's early video works are notable for the way in which they prefigure a directorial approach that he explored in his later films, as well as his paintings: his films are marked by an extreme level of control, and a desire to remove his hand from the work. In certain films, Goldstein's presence off screen is responsible for the action on screen: in *A Glass of Milk* (1972), Goldstein rhythmically slams his fist on a card table, causing a glass of milk to splash and fall over, and in *Some Plates* (1972), his repetitive jumping causes a precarious stack of plates to crash to the floor. Even when Goldstein is on screen, he is at work to disappear: in *A Spotlight* (1972), a beam of light follows Goldstein around a dark room while he tries with difficulty to escape it. The speed of its movements makes the action look particularly menacing, as if he were trying to evade capture or imprisonment. Goldstein is entirely absent from his later films, functioning as a director to make the immaculately reduced, brightly colored films that Crimp included in *Pictures*, and for which Goldstein became known.

[1] Crimp, Douglas, “Pictures,” *October*, Vol. 8 (Spring, 1979), pp. 75-88.

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Also on view in the gallery is a major group of Jack Goldstein's monumental works on canvas, produced between 1983 and 1990, as well a large format work on paper. Goldstein turned his attention to painting in 1979, after nearly a decade working almost exclusively in film. Having never made paintings, he began making large format canvases featuring appropriated imagery using an airbrush. He found images of spectacular occurrences in history and science textbooks – Margaret Bourke-White's photographs of World War II, volcanic eruptions, lightning storms, and sun flares – and enlarged them to monumental scales, bringing the content of the images to the verge of abstraction. Goldstein approached his paintings in a manner similar to his films: he became a director in his studio, hiring skilled technicians to execute specific parts of his paintings. He often employed a team of eight assistants to create his paintings, and though he often devised the painterly methods used to make his images, his hand was rarely involved in the physical production of his work.

ABOUT JACK GOLDSTEIN

Jack Goldstein was born in 1945 in Montreal, Canada. He was a member of the first graduating class from CalArts, where he studied under John Baldessari, and alongside artists Troy Brauntuch, Eric Fischl, Matt Mullican, David Salle, and James Welling. His work featured prominently in a number of seminal exhibitions, including *Pictures* (1977), organized by Douglas Crimp and Helene Winer, at Artists Space in New York. Goldstein's work has been the subject of numerous international solo presentations, including exhibitions at the Jewish Museum, New York (2013); Galerie Perrotin, Paris (2013); the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach (2012); MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main (2009); Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Cologne (2009); Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York (2008); Metro Pictures, New York (2005); The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2002); and Le Magasin – Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble (2002). His work is held in the collections of many public institutions both stateside and abroad, including the Broad, Los Angeles; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach; Tate, London; and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Goldstein lived and worked in Los Angeles until his death in 2003.

ABOUT VENUS

Founded in 2012 by Adam Lindemann and with spaces in Manhattan and Los Angeles, VENUS is dedicated to curated exhibitions both historic and contemporary, which cast a unique and often iconoclastic view on the work of established artists, or artists whose works have been somewhat overlooked. The gallery continues to collaborate with prominent artists, foundations, estates, and galleries.

For further information about the exhibition and availability, please contact the gallery at info@venusovermanhattan.com

For all press inquiries related to the exhibition, please email press@venusovermanhattan.com