

MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY

For Immediate Release.

Tacita Dean: ...my English breath in foreign clouds

March 2 – April 23, 2016

Opening reception: Wednesday, March 2, 6-8 pm.

Marian Goodman Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Tacita Dean, ...*my English breath in foreign clouds*, which will be on view from March 2nd through April 23rd, and will feature new drawing works, a series of photo works, a new film, *Portraits* (2016) and two recent films, *Buon Fresco* (2014) and *Event for a Stage* (2015).

On the Third Floor from March 2 – 26th, *Event for a Stage* (2015), a film made from a work for theater which was presented at the 19th Biennale of Sydney in 2014, will be shown every 90 minutes, from 11a.m. onwards.

A British artist who works and resides in Berlin, Tacita Dean has for the last eighteen months been living in Los Angeles. Drawing on the daily experience of this changed milieu -- indicated by the title of the current exhibition -- Dean was inspired by what she hadn't expected, which caused her to jettison preconceived ideas of work she might do in California.

"What surprised me most about Los Angeles was the one thing I had imagined there would be little of and that was clouds. These clouds differed from their European counterparts because they were nearly never gray but extremely variable and white; they appeared unconnected to rain, as in Europe, but instead to the imperceptible activity of winds high above the earth's surface. Driving down Sunset Boulevard early on in my stay, I was confronted by a voluminous atomic cloud blooming at the end of the road in front of me, back-dropped by a deep blue sky. This inspired me to take up chalk on a blackboard once again. I have since become a cloud watcher."

A Concordance of Fifty American Clouds is a collection of cloud works reprising several of her mediums while embracing two new ones -- spray chalk, white charcoal pencil and gouache on salvaged Victorian era school slates, and lithographs with Gemini G.E.L. Using *A Complete Concordance to Shakespeare* that she first came across when clearing out her father's study, she looked up the word 'cloud' and was delighted to find how variously and how richly the word appeared in his plays. The Concordance became her guide to the titles of the slate drawings. "...*my English breath in foreign clouds*" is taken from *Richard II*.

... *my English breath in foreign clouds* also has particular resonance in the subject of Dean's new 16mm film *Portraits*, 2016 (16 minutes). The artist David Hockney has smoked for years. He smokes when he looks, considers or thinks but never when he is painting. He is a happy smoker but observes that these days in California, it has become nearly impossible to light up: "*It used to be you couldn't be gay. Now you can be gay but you can't smoke. There's always something,*" he told the *Guardian* in 2014. Dean asked if she could film him having a cigarette and he replied that he'd be delighted to sit for her smoking. The resulting film is not one but five cigarettes and is compounded in its multiple portrait-ness by the series of portrait paintings that Hockney has been working on since returning to live in Los Angeles in 2013.

Alongside *Portraits* is Dean's 33 minute film *Buon Fresco*, 2014. Filmed in the Upper Basilica of St Francis of Assisi, Dean observes Giotto's frescos of *The Life of St Francis* at extremely close quarter using a macro lens and a scissor lift, giving the viewer the privilege of detail and the normally impossible perspective of the painter himself. Giotto was the artist who embodied the transition from Byzantine painting to a more naturalistic style, at the same historical moment that St Francis humanized sainthood. Observing the brushstrokes and the ingenuity of the technique allows the viewer to see just how radical and expressive a

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painter Giotto Di Bondone was. Alongside the film, Dean is launching her new artist book *Buon Fresco* published by MACK Books, London.

In the South Gallery, Dean is showing *GAETA, 2015 – Fifty photographs, plus one*. Photographs were taken in 2008 in Cy Twombly's house and studio in the Italian town of Gaeta where he made his home. They were published as a photo essay, *Gaeta*, in the catalogue of Twombly's exhibition at MUMOK in Vienna in 2009, where Dean invited him to collaborate with her in making the original selection. Last year, on being offered the last available Cibachrome photographic paper (color photographs made photochemically from transparency), Dean decided to use the paper to realize the essay as a photographic series while also extending it to include various photochemical processes and papers also under threat.

On the third floor, Dean is showing *Event for a Stage, 2015*. Originally commissioned as a live performance on four consecutive nights at Carriageworks as part of the 2014 Sydney Biennial, it became Dean's first foray into theatre and her first experience of working with an actor. What resulted was a fierce interplay between the artist and the actor Stephen Dillane as they struggled to understand and accommodate each other's disciplines. Dean filmed each of the four nights as part of the performance with the intention of making the film. *Event for a Stage* lasts 50 minutes and will be shown every 90 minutes with the following showing times: 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm. Due to the film's complex and emotional trajectory, it is recommended to watch it from the start.

Tacita Dean was born in Canterbury, England in 1965. She has been the recipient of various awards including the Kurt Schwitters Prize in 2009, and the Hugo Boss Prize in 2006. In 2014 she became artist in residence at the Getty Research Institute. She is a founding member of savefilm.org and is vigorously campaigning to save the medium of film.

In 2015 *Event for a Stage* was shown at the 52nd Theatertreffen in Berlin and the BFI London Film Festival.

Recent exhibitions include *JG- Utah Museum of Fine Arts*, Salt Lake City, Utah (2014), Hammer Museum, Los Angeles and Arcadia University Art Gallery, Pennsylvania (2013), *Tacita Dean: The Measure of Things*, Instituto Moreira Salles, Rio de Janeiro; *Tacita Dean, De Mar en Mar*, Botin Foundation, Santander, Spain; *Tacita Dean: The Studio of Giorgio Morandi*, Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (all 2013); *documenta (13)*, Kassel; *Tacita Dean: Five Americans*, New Museum, New York; *Tacita Dean*, Norton Museum, West Palm Beach, Florida (all 2012); *The Unilever Series: Tacita Dean*, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London; *Tacita Dean – The Line of Fate*, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig – MUMOK, Vienna (both 2011); and *The Friar's Doodle*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia/Abadia de Santo Domingo de Silos, Spain (2010).

The gallery will also be celebrating the new book, *Buon Fresco*, published by MACK publishers in 2016. A reception and conversation with Massimiliano Gioni will be held at the Center for Italian Modern Art (CIMA) in New York, on Thursday, March 3rd from 6-8 pm.

Please join us at the opening reception for the artist on Wednesday, March 2nd from 6-8 pm.

For press inquiries, please contact Linda Pellegrini, Director of Communications at: linda@mariangoodman.com.

For further information, please contact the Gallery at: 212 977 7160 or visit www.mariangoodman.com