

PRESS RELEASE

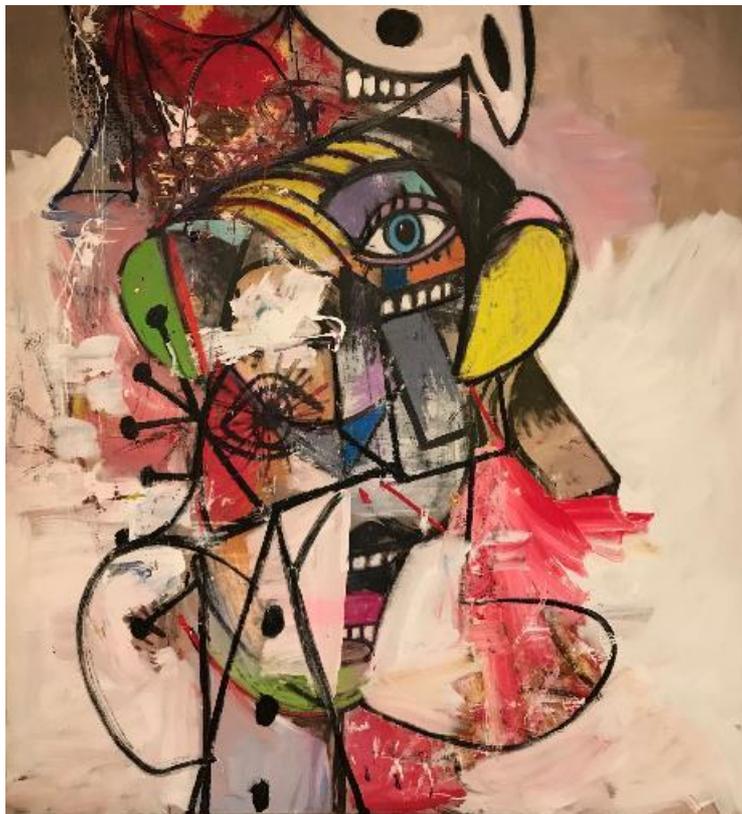
GEORGE CONDO

Expanded Portrait Compositions

27 Mar 2018 – 06 April 2018

Hong Kong Maritime Museum

**FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION IN HONG KONG
FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY DURING REGION'S ART MONTH
EXCLUSIVELY AT THE HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM**



George Condo, *Laughing and Screaming*, 2018, acrylic, metallic paint, pigment stick, charcoal and pastel on linen, 80 x 74 inches, 203 x 188 cm © George Condo / ARS (Artists Rights Society), New York, 2018. Courtesy of the Artist and Skarstedt, New York and Sprüth Magers, Berlin, London, Los Angeles

24 January 2018, Hong Kong - Skarstedt and Sprüth Magers are delighted to present *Expanded Portrait Compositions*, the first major exhibition by American artist George Condo in Hong Kong. Showcasing a brand-new body of paintings and works on paper that have been created by Condo specifically for the Maritime Museum in Hong Kong, the exhibition will be on view for two weeks only, from March 27 through April 6, 2018.

Coinciding with the sixth edition of Art Basel Hong Kong, *Expanded Portrait Compositions* will be comprised of eight paintings on canvas and five works on paper that display the artist's unique method of integrating myriad techniques of drawing and painting into singular artworks. Incorporating the dynamic speed of *action painting* as well as the methodical layering of dense pigments in various media, Condo's recent portraits of single and multiple figures present a bold view of humanity in a state of psychological cubism, reconfigured faces and abstracted bodies which exploded out of the picture frame in a chaotic charge of manic energy. Condo's bold gestural lines of oil pigment stick, acrylic and metallic paint and pastel create a tour-de force of painting, an expression that raucously shifts between abstraction and figuration all at once in bold and surprising new ways.

With a recent focus on multiple mediums over the last decade that accentuates the artist's mastery of color and texture, these new works are a true representation of this direction in full force. As his method of picture making has become increasingly complex and daring, Condo's experience with line has altered his portrait paintings: now, the electrified colors and the use of black outline to delineate space and form is noticeably more prominent in these works. In effect, Condo is using the materiality of paint to recreate the immateriality of the human psyche.

The sneering teeth, the purple hair, the contorted faces, the delicately delineated nudes often surrounded by their more lascivious male counterparts, reflect today's ongoing moral morass and social strife within the headquarters of some abandoned alley of human values. The classical faces interrupted by grimacing profiles and the shifting between thick and thin pastel lines with acrylic overlay create a pulsating rhythm across the surface of the canvas, further echoing today's sociological angst. Condo's proficiency as a draughtsman and a painter are evident in the multilayered approach to composition, creating a push and pull between positive and negative space and reflecting positive and negative energies, situating the portrait in a field of psychological activation.

Born in New Hampshire in 1957, the artist moved to New York City in late 1979 and began his professional career as a painter in 1980. Condo was recently the subject of a major retrospective of works on paper titled *The Way I Think* at the Phillips Collection in Washington D.C, in early 2017, which travelled to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark. In 2016 Condo's work was the feature of a museum-wide exhibition, *Confrontation*, at the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Museum Berggruen, Berlin, curated by Udo Kittelmann.

Museum hours:

09:30 - 17:30 (Monday to Friday);

10:00 - 19:00 (Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays)

Ends

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Notes to editors:

About George Condo

Condo has occupied a prominent place in the art world for over three decades with his exceptional work garnering international acclaim and works part of the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, (New York); the Museum of Modern Art, (New York); the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, (New York); Whitney Museum of American Art, (New York); Albright-Knox Art Gallery, (Buffalo); the National Gallery of Art, (Washington D.C.); the Museum of Fine Arts, (Houston), the Judith Rothschild Foundation, (Philadelphia); the Broad Art Foundation, (Santa Monica); the Marciano Art Foundation, (Los Angeles); the Tate Modern, (London); Centre Georges Pompidou, (Paris); Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Ministère de la Culture, (Paris), Fonds Regional d'Art Contemporain, Ile de France, (Paris); Staedel Museum, (Frankfurt); Dakis Joannou Collection Foundation, (Athens); Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, (Oslo); Museu d'Art Contemporani, (Barcelona); the Doron Sebbag Art Collection, ORS Ltd., (Tel Aviv); Museo Jumex, (Mexico City); and Moderna Museet, (Stockholm).

George Condo is represented by Sprüth Magers and Skarstedt Gallery. Both galleries share a long-term relationship with the artist, going back to the first solo exhibitions at Skarstedt Gallery in 2005 and Sprüth Magers in 1984.

About Skarstedt Gallery

Skarstedt was founded in 1994 by Per Skarstedt to mount historical exhibitions by Contemporary European and American artists. The New York gallery's program focuses on concepts such as representation, authorship, identity, and sexual politics across a wide-range of media. Skarstedt's unique relationship with artists allows it to present museum-quality exhibitions both on the primary and secondary markets, creating a dialogue between the generations. Skarstedt's new London gallery is situated in the historic district of St James's. Measuring 5,000 square feet, with the main exhibition space at ground floor level, the three interconnected galleries enable Skarstedt to continue its core program of museum-quality exhibitions. The gallery works with the following artists and artists' estates: Francis Bacon, Georg Baselitz, Jean-Michel Basquiat, George Condo, Willem de Kooning, Eric Fischl, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, Lucio Fontana, Keith Haring, Jenny Holzer, Mike Kelley, Martin Kippenberger, Yves Klein, Jeff Koons, Barbara Kruger, Juan Muñoz, Cady Noland, Albert Oehlen, Richard Prince, David Salle, Thomas Schütte, Cindy Sherman, Rosemarie Trockel, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol and Christopher Wool.

About Sprüth Magers

Sprüth Magers is an international gallery dedicated to exhibiting ground-breaking modern and contemporary art. Since its inception in 1983, it has expanded from its roots in Cologne, Germany, and now has galleries located in Berlin, London and Los Angeles, as well as an office in Cologne and an outpost in Hong Kong. Its early shows in the 1980's featured a number of today's most influential artists, who continue to exhibit with the gallery to this day. The gallery now works with over 60 artists and estates and regularly broadens its program with up-and-coming younger artists. Sprüth Magers is known for its rigorously curatorial approach to its program and for enduring devotion to its artists, many of which regularly exhibit at the world's most prestigious cultural institutions. Its Founders Monika Sprüth and Philomene Magers appear consistently on Art Review's 'Power 100' list of the most influential people in the art world, as well as being named by The Guardian newspaper on their list of 'Movers and makers: the most powerful people in the art world' in 2014.

About Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum is a vibrant, cultural institution dedicated to preserving, collecting and displaying objects that tell the story about trade and maritime in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta. A non-profit registered charity founded in 2003 by members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, the Museum opened in September 2005 at Murray House in Stanley and relocated in 2013 to Pier 8, in the heart of the Central Harbour Waterfront. Today the Museum attracts 100,000 visitors annually where across 4,400 square metres more than 1,200 objects are displayed in 13 galleries on three levels all of which uniquely overlooks a bustling Victoria Harbour.

With a mission to promote a greater knowledge of Hong Kong, China and Asia's maritime history, the museum presents the vital role that ships and the sea play in the past, present and future through experiences and opportunities to learn about Hong Kong's heritage and links with the rest of the world. A special exhibition and events space, resource centre, roof-top café and gift shop augment visitors' experience and patrons and the community of Hong Kong actively engage in education and public programming offered for schools, community groups and families.