



Denis Gardarin Gallery to Present *Rudolf Polanszky: on Evolutive Concepts of Transformation*

First Comprehensive Exhibition of the Viennese Artist and Key Post-Actionist Figure in the United States

New York, October 22, 2015 - Denis Gardarin Gallery is pleased to present the first comprehensive survey of work by the Austrian artist Rudolf Polanszky in the United States, opening on Friday, November 6th. The exhibition at 224 Mulberry Street in New York City will open in tandem with the previews of fall auction week and will remain on view through December 12th, 2015.

Born in Vienna in 1951, Polanszky was a key figure in the Post-Actionist movement of the 1970s and remains the most important living artist of this era. Known for his process-dependent multimedia works that explore questions of free will in art and human behavior, Polanszky worked with and greatly influenced artists such as Franz West and Dieter Roth. Spanning over three decades from 1983 to 2014, Denis Gardarin Gallery's exhibition *Rudolf Polanszky: on Evolutive Concepts of Transformation* traces the predominance of process over form in Polanszky's oeuvre from his early performance-based work *Coma (White)* to the more recent "Reconstructions" paintings.

Polanszky's early conceptual work challenged traditional notions in art. The artist used lard, animal footprints, coil springs, or his own body rather than paint and brushes alone. In his critical 1983 work *Coma (White)*, which has never been shown before and will be central to the exhibition, the artist relinquished creative control and submitted himself entirely to his body's movements. Wearing a bodysuit covered with paintbrushes and sponges, he rolled around on a paper creating a painting that is devoid of conscious imagination or of a specific desired outcome. Liberating himself from intentionality and predictability, Polanszky freed himself from his own restraints.

Coma (White) is thus created entirely by his surrender to an idea. This work includes sequential video stills of the performance, the bodysuit used, as well as the resulting conceptual painting.

Polanszky's work deals explicitly with the tensions between planning and randomness in the artistic process. His paintings investigate the processes by which behavior is unconsciously guided, or in his words, "externally directed." This post-modern practice is fundamental to the artist's more recent "Reconstructions" series, in which Polanszky explores the three-dimensional topology of canvases created by the confrontation between various materials. In addition to paint, Polanszky uses textiles, plexiglass, wood, plastics, asphalt, foil, and other materials that have been freed from their functions. In a process the artist refers to as "ad-hoc synthesis," Polanszky transforms these found and used materials into spontaneous structures, assemblages, and collages. As with his early performance-based works, "Reconstructions" successfully eliminates the influence of conscious imagination, best reflected in one of the artist's largest and most ambitious paintings, *Drifting and Sliding Picture*, from 2014.

Denis Gardarin Gallery's exhibition *Rudolf Polanszky: on Evolutive Concepts of Transformation* follows the artist's first European retrospective, *Rudolf Polanszky: Translinear Sculptures* at the Zeit Kunst Niederösterreich in Krems, Austria, earlier this year. The exhibition was accompanied by a full-length catalogue published by Kerber Verlag and edited by curator Alexandra Schantl, including an essay by Francesco Stocchi. Polanszky's work has also been exhibited at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the NewBridge Project in Newcastle, the 21er Haus Österreichische Galerie Belvedere in Vienna, the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh.

This will be Denis Gardarin Gallery's second presentation of works by Polanszky following a solo exhibition at VOLTA NY earlier this year during which *Artnet* named him one of the "10 Contemporary Artists to Watch."

There will be a vernissage and wine reception on Thursday, November 5th from 6 to 8PM. *Rudolf Polanszky: on Evolutive Concepts of Transformation* will be open Wednesdays through Sundays from 11AM to 7PM from November 6th to December 12th at 224 Mulberry Street, New York, NY 10012.

About Denis Gardarin Gallery

Denis Gardarin Gallery was founded in 2014 to engage with the cultural shift in art production and reception in this era of globalization. Building on over 20 years of experience in cultural institutions and top art galleries including Sikkema Jenkins & Co., Sean Kelly, and White Cube, Gardarin interrogates the notion of physical site through a migrating program that mounts museum-quality exhibitions in an international context. Denis Gardarin Gallery focuses on comprehensive investigations of artists who are leaders across disciplines, movements, and eras to expand the scope and reception of their vision. Initially focusing on the practices of French conceptual artist Mathieu Mercier, early leader of Brazilian Concrete Movement Geraldo de Barros, and key figure of the Post-Actionist movement Rudolf Polanszky, the gallery is also presenting projects with abstract artist Joseph La Piana, Israeli performance artist Naama Tsabar, and Belgian performance artist and musician Joris van de Moortel.

###

[Rudolf Polanszky: on Evolutive Concepts of Transformation](#)

224 Mulberry Street, New York, NY 10012

On view: Wednesdays through Sundays from Friday, Nov 6th through Saturday, Dec 12th | 11AM – 7PM

For further press information and images, please contact aga.sablinska@gmail.com.

For all other inquiries, please contact info@denisgardarin.com.

Visit denisgardarin.com for information and schedule of upcoming events.



Denis Gardarin Gallery | 40 West 27th Street, 8th Floor | New York, NY 10001 | info@denisgardarin.com

By appointment only