

# LÉVY GORVY

## LÉVY GORVY TO PRESENT FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION OF JOHANNES GIRARDONI IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

### **Johannes Girardoni: Sensing Singularity**

20 July – 15 September 2018

Lévy Gorvy  
22 Old Bond Street  
London W1S 4PY

Opening Reception: 19 July, 6–8pm



**LEFT:** Johannes Girardoni, *Metaspace V3*, 2013/2018, Aluminium, fiberglass, resin, wood, LED lights, sensors with Spectro-Sonic Refrequencer, 108 x 168 x 108 inches (274.3 x 426.7 x 274.3 cm). **RIGHT:** Johannes Girardoni, Interior, *Metaspace V3*, 2013/2018, Aluminium, fiberglass, resin, wood, LED lights, sensors with Spectro-Sonic Refrequencer, 108 x 168 x 108 inches (274.3 x 426.7 x 274.3 cm).

**London, UK** – Johannes Girardoni (b. 1967, Austria) has dedicated the last two decades of his practice to a complex and precise exploration of the limits of perception through material and light. Shifting between disciplines—sculpture, installation art, and photography—his work is concerned with creating new definitions of space through digital and analogue technology. Lévy Gorvy is pleased to present the first solo exhibition by the artist in the United Kingdom, set to open at the gallery’s London location at 22 Old Bond Street on 20 July.

*Johannes Girardoni: Sensing Singularity* will feature three distinct bodies of work, including new sculptures and a monumental *Metaspace*, which collectively explore the relationship between material and light. His latest interactive installations incorporate a third element: sound. The exhibition will demonstrate Girardoni’s two decade-long engagement with perception, inviting visitors to experience new definitions of space, sound, and colour through experiments with analogue and digital media. As the artist stated: ‘I concern myself with a new reality: we are at a point in our culture where technology and human perception are about to merge—this is a sensory singularity.’ The exhibition will be on view through 15 September.

#### **About the Exhibition**

A highlight of the exhibition is *Metaspace V3* (2013/2018), an immersive colour-soundscape built from raw aluminium, with embedded sensors inside. Blurring the boundaries between art and architecture, this software-driven installation evolves according to the movements of participants, converting matter into light and light into sound. Inside the pod, visitors experience a borderless space filled with pure colour, that cycles through the spectrum at different speeds, converting light into ambient sound through sensors in the ceiling; outside the pod a pixelated surveillance video projects the synced colour changes onto the gallery wall. Whilst the artist James Turrell famously encapsulated the intentions of the California Light and Space movement

by declaring, 'I want you to sense yourself sensing. To see yourself seeing. To be aware of how you are forming the reality you see', Girardoni pushes this enquiry further, by fitting his installations with artificial sensory mechanisms—Spectro-Sonic Refrequecers (SSR)—so that the environment is also sensing the participant. A virtual feedback loop is created between artwork and viewer, connecting natural and artificial phenomena.

His series of Light Reactive Organic Sculpture, operating at the intersection between painting and sculpture, is also presented. Composed of found wood, beeswax, and pigment, these minimalist objects combine permeable properties with a heavy materiality that absorbs and radiates light. Comprising Dripboxes, Faceboxes, and Colorvoid Troughs, the works shift according to the conditions of the present, maintaining a sense of the past through the fixed history of the wood. The result is a subtle and evolving perceptual event that manifests in a range of compound colours, glowing: Yellow Orange, Dioxazine Violet, and Quinacridone Gold. Their encaustic surfaces sit within a tradition of hot wax painting previously practiced by Brice Marden and Jasper Johns.

The artist's latest series of chromatic resin sculptures, which will also be on view, extend these experiments with virtual and material content through the use of an application called *Resonant Lens*. The app maps the visible spectrum onto the sound spectrum in real time, so that viewers can hear what they see. In this way, Girardoni shifts our reliance on biological senses to sensory perceptual experiences through technology. As such, the Re-Frequenced Sculpture forges aural, visual, and virtual connections, converting colour frequencies into choral outbursts which augment our experience of reality.

#### **About the Artist**

The work of Johannes Girardoni (b. 1967, Austria) is concerned with creating new definitions of space through digital and analogue technology. The artist studied at the M.I.T. Media Lab, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. His art has been shown in museums and galleries worldwide, including the Ludwig Museum, Cologne; the Harvard Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and the Austrian Cultural Forum, New York. In 2011, he participated in *Personal Structures* at the 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale. His works can be found in the collections of the Akzo Nobel Art Foundation, Arnhem; the Austrian Cultural Forum, New York; the CALDIC Collection, Rotterdam; the Harvard Art Museum; the Margulies Collection, Miami; and the Progressive Art Collection, Cleveland, among others.

Girardoni currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

#### **About Lévy Gorvy**

Lévy Gorvy cultivates a program devoted to innovation and connoisseurship in the fields of modern, postwar, and contemporary art. Founded by Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy, Lévy Gorvy maintains gallery spaces at 909 Madison Avenue in New York and in Mayfair, London. In September 2017, Lévy Gorvy opened an office in Shanghai. The gallery fosters continued dedication to the living artists and artists' estates it represents, and pursues a robust program of exhibitions and multidisciplinary events. Lévy Gorvy also produces ongoing art historical research and original scholarship, publishing exhibition catalogues, monographs, and other key publications.

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