

SASKIA NEUMAN GALLERY

Mark Dion

Systema Naturae

23.03 — 13.05.2023

Opening Thursday the 23rd of March 17 - 20

Saskia Neuman gallery is thrilled to present American artist Mark Dion's first gallery exhibition in Stockholm, Sweden.

The internationally acclaimed artist was born in 1961 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He initially studied in 1981-2 at the Hartford Art School of the University of Hartford in Connecticut, which awarded him a BFA (1986) and honorary doctorate (Ph.D) in 2002. From 1983 to 1984 he attended the School of Visual Arts in New York and then the prestigious Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program (1984-1985). He is an Honorary Fellow of Falmouth University in the UK (2014) and has an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (Ph.D.) from The Wagner Free Institute of Science in Philadelphia (2015).

Dion's work examines the ways in which dominant ideologies and public institutions shape our understanding of history, knowledge, and the natural world. The job of the artist, he says, is to go against the grain of dominant culture, to challenge perception and convention. Appropriating archaeological, field ecology and other scientific methods of collecting, ordering, and exhibiting objects, Dion creates works that question the distinctions between 'objective' ('rational') scientific methods and 'subjective' ('irrational') influences. By locating the roots of environmental politics and public policy in the construction of knowledge about nature, Mark Dion questions the objectivity and authoritative role of the scientific voice in contemporary society, tracking how pseudo-science, social agendas and ideology creep into public discourse and knowledge production.

The exhibition *Systema Naturae* boasts a plethora of new work: with over 45 works on paper, drawings, and prints, as well as two new sculptures. In *Systema Naturae* the artist further explores themes common in his practice, categorization, and reference building through the lens of natural science, art history and the fantastical. Unique to Dion's first solo show is the collaboration with Swedish museum and print making consortium, Grafikens Hus. *Systema Naturae* also introduces a brand-new limited edition print by the artist, titled *Paradoxa, 2023*. *Paradoxa, 2023* plays on the science and pseudo-science of the Swedish botanist and naturalist Carl von Linné. In this new edition lithograph the artist has drawn the creatures that Linné deemed unfit for his volumes of flora and fauna categorization. Saskia Neuman Gallery aptly resides on Linnégatan (taking its name from the explorer). The street leads into Humlegården (the nearby park) and a statue of Carl von Linné, erected in 1885. The famed Linné plantation, which include 21 000 species of plants, surrounds the monument in the park. In addition to the close collaboration with Grafikens Hus, the Swedish technological

Saskia Neuman Gallery AB

Linnégatan 19

114 47 Stockholm

info@saskianeuman.com

www.saskianeumangallery.com

+ 46 70 919 53 17

SASKIA NEUMAN GALLERY

perfumery No Ordinary Scent has crafted a scent, *Cabinet de Curiosites*, inspired the artist's work. A small vial of the signature scent will be available with each purchased print, incased in a sleeve with a new specialty stamp made by Dion.

Dion has received numerous awards, including the ninth annual Larry Aldrich Foundation Award (2001) The Joan Mitchell Foundation Award (2007) and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Lucida Art Award (2008) and was a Guggenheim Fellowship recipient in 2019. He has had major exhibitions at the Miami Art Museum (2006); Museum of Modern Art, New York (2004); Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2003); Tate Gallery, London (1999), and the British Museum of Natural History in London (2007).

For more information about the exhibition please contact
info@saskianeuman.com

For press inquiries please contact
Joanna Sundström
Part Projects
joanna@partprojects.se
+46 (0) 733 46 66 62

Saskia Neuman Gallery AB
Linnégatan 19
114 47 Stockholm
info@saskianeuman.com
www.saskianeumangallery.com
+ 46 70 919 53 17