

Press release

Arturo Herrera | *Self Park*

11 November, 2022 – 28 January, 2023

Opening: Thursday, 10 November 2022, 6 – 9 pm

carlier | gebauer, Madrid, is pleased to announce *Self Park*, Arturo Herrera's first solo exhibition with the gallery. An interest in strategies of repetition, juxtaposition, and fragmentation carry across Arturo Herrera's multi-layered artistic practice. He synthesizes found images and forms into ambiguous contexts, unlocking their potential to kindle expansive, highly individual associations. As Scott Roben notes, "accumulation and disorientation, and the loss of clear reference are among his work's underlying features. It defers the apprehension of any singular whole. Instead, dislocated bits of printed matter, no matter where they land, always carry with them a sense of absence, a quality extended by frequent play between positive and negative shape."¹ *Self Park* continues Herrera's conceptual and material engagement with the logic of collage and the legacies of modernist abstraction in recent collage-based works that show the breadth of his distinct practice.

New mixed media collages combine pages from books with cut and printed amorphous shapes. These works not only fuse disparate visual elements, but also material fragments like silk screening, acrylic paints, and felt with lithographic ink. Through the layering of different kinds of paper, pigments, and extracted bits of paintings and drawings, Herrera brings both material and image into a richly textured "fray of relations."² In a series of collages entitled *10 Louis/Ponti Collages*, Herrera adopts a more streamlined and minimal visual approach compared to his typically complex compositions. These subtle interventions emerged from Herrera's 2007 visit to the Gio Ponti-designed Villa Planchart in Caracas. Each work situates a photograph of Ponti's villa in relation to a different page from a Morris Louis catalog that Herrera found at a Berlin flea market. Bounded by simple frames painted in hues recalling Ponti's color-scheme for the villa, the collages are situated in such a way that "the visual weight of the image is consistent with the gravity [...] of its corresponding Louis painting."³ The work distills Herrera's conviction that collage has the capacity to create new worlds to its most essential element: juxtaposing two unrelated fragments to create an image rich in references and meaning.

Arturo Herrera (b. 1959, Caracas) lives and works in Berlin. His work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions internationally. Herrera's most recent site specific installations can be found at The Bass Museum of Art in Miami; Officine Grandi Riparazioni / OGR in Turin; and Bloomberg European Headquarters in London. His work is in the collections of the Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid; The MoMA, New York; The Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and many others. Herrera has received numerous awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, ArtPace San Antonio, The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation and the DAAD, Berlin.

¹ Scott Roben, "Themselves, In Motion", (2021)

² *Ibid*

³ Jeffrey Saletnik, "Arturo Herrera's Fragmented Wholeness." (2022)