

Press release

Mark Wallinger

10.06.– 17.07.2021

Opening: Thursday, 10 June, 2021, 3–9 pm

The Turner Prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger has built an international reputation for incisive works that engage notions of power, religion, class, and authority. A constant over his three decades of artistic production has been his continual negotiation of the individual and their entanglement with such forces. Building on his long-standing investigations of subjectivity as it relates to social, political, and cultural issues, his more recent works have shifted towards an exploration of identity and notions of the self.

For his eighth solo exhibition with carlier | gebauer, his first at the gallery's Madrid location, Wallinger presents a constellation of paintings, photographs, and videos made between 2004 and 2021. The nucleus of the exhibition are the artist's *Self Portraits* (2013), bold black and white paintings that depict the letter "I" executed in various "freehand" fonts. Wallinger has claimed that self-portraiture possesses a kind of mystique that he is "a bit resistant to." His ever-expanding series of abstracted portraits, with their fluctuating styles, formats, and sizes therefore depict Wallinger's artistic personality as a "parade of shifting selves." The term shadow self denotes an individual's darker side, and is often associated with the unconscious or repressed aspects of the self. In his video *Shadow Walker*, Wallinger captures his shadow on a stroll down Shaftsbury Avenue in London's Soho as it melds with the sidewalk, passers-by, bits of rubbish, and more—a performative melding of one's personal shadow with the shadows of society. Wallinger's most recent work, from a group of photographs entitled *Panorama*, was made on one of the artist's daily morning walks. Wallinger began to document the uncanny feeling of deserted urban spaces during the first Coronavirus lockdown with his iPhone, capturing how the city had become, in the artist's words, "a weird distillation of itself." *Panorama: London 21/4/2020* (2021) depicts a time-lapse of an empty street, save for a masked woman with her walking sticks who subsequently disappears from the image. The uncanny feeling triggered by *Panorama* is echoed by an earlier video work entitled *The Magic of Things* (2010), in which Wallinger has compiled clips from the TV series *Bewitched* into a ten minute loop. All traces of human presence have been obliterated from the footage, leaving everyday objects like lamps, cups of tea, baby dolls and brooms to perform a choreography of things propelled by a curious agential force.

Mark Wallinger (b.1959) lives and works in London. In 2007, he won the prestigious Turner Prize for his work *State Britain*, a sprawling installation that meticulously recreated peace campaigner Brian Haw's Parliament Square protest in Tate Britain. Selected solo exhibitions include Serpentine Gallery, London; Tate Liverpool; Vienna Secession; Museum for Gegenwartskunst, Basel; Palais Des Beaux Arts, Brussels; Museum De Pont, Netherlands; Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin and Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City. Wallinger's *Ecce Homo* (1999–2000) was the first work to occupy the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square. Wallinger represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 2001. His work is included in the collections of many leading international museums including Tate, MoMA New York, and Centre Pompidou Paris.