

# Zevs

## The Big Oil Splash

Private View: Thursday 28th July 6-9pm

Exhibition runs: 29th July – 1st September 2016



“Ecology is at the heart of this new work. But it was paint, not politics. The work of man on earth extends here in a work of painting on canvas.” – Zevs

This summer, Lazarides will host a new series of works by the notorious French artist Zevs, with his solo exhibition: The Big Oil Splash. The artist, otherwise known as Aguirre Schwarz, will present a series of paintings, monochromes and sculpture based on the oil spill thematic.

The paintings presented in The Big Oil Splash are richly imbued with the artist's critical and anti-authoritarian spirit and are reflective of his graphic vocabulary, love of film noir, misappropriations and his attachment to Pop Art and comics. Full of borrowings, namely from Hockney's iconic 1967 A Bigger Splash and emblems from major international oil corporations, the artist tells the captivating story of how the oil industry has spilled over into banking, finance, shipping, foreign policy, tourism, arts and leisure since the time of J. D. Rockefeller.

A single sunbed not only exposes the series of monochromes to UV radiation, but also unfolds Zevs' meditation on serenity and the intricate dynamics of people, power, possessions and pleasures. All of these elements have facilitated the artist's social ascent and his ultimate seclusion from the mundane world of art, culture, politics and anything that impedes the peace of mind he for so long has sought for.

**About the artist****Zevs**

Born in Saverne, France in 1977, Aguirre Schwarz founded his alter ego; Zevs, after a regional train, Zeus, almost cost him his life while he was down in the Metro.

Best known for his 'liquidation' technique, Zevs famously distorts recognisable images and regularly sabotages the logos of major brands and businesses in an attempt to subvert and critique twenty-first century consumer-driven culture.

Working alongside French artists, such as André and Invader, in the latter part of the 1990's Zevs became one of the leading figures that pioneered the French street art scene. His significant acts of vandalism vary from the 'visual kidnapping' of a woman from a German Lavazza billboard in 2002 to the liquidated Chanel logo daubed over a Giorgio Armani storefront in Hong Kong that ultimately led to his arrest in 2009.

He has participated extensively in international performances and exhibitions, including solo shows at Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek Museum (Denmark), CCA Andratx foundation (Spain) and an upcoming exhibition at Chateau de Vincennes (France).

**About Lazarides**

Working outside conventional practice and the contemporary art system, Lazarides welcomes a broad audience to an extensive exhibition programme, supporting the work of a group of artists who collectively defy categorization.

Founded a decade ago in 2006 by Steve Lazarides, the gallery represents some of the most distinctive and innovative artists working today. While Lazarides is considered the international market leader in what is dubbed urban art, contemporary figurative painting, interactive installations, sculptures, and video work all feature heavily on the exhibition calendar.

Lazarides Rathbone has been the flagship gallery since May 2009, set in the heart of London's Fitzrovia in a four-storey former gin palace. In addition to the gallery schedule Lazarides are recognised for their dedication to producing a range of unique off-site events, encompassing shows in New York and Los Angeles as well as global art fairs and large-scale group exhibitions.

Alongside the launch of the new print studio and online store, 2014 saw the opening of the Lazarides Editions at Mondrian London on the South Bank. Lazarides Editions presents a comprehensive schedule of bespoke exhibitions, limited edition print releases and a revolving curation of editioned artwork.

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