

Fraenkel Gallery

49 GEARY STREET SAN FRANCISCO 94108

415 981 2661 TEL

415 981 4014 FAX

For immediate release



CHRISTIAN MARCLAY

January 21 – March 25, 2021

Fraenkel Gallery is pleased to present new work by Christian Marclay, incorporating collage, video animation, and photography. The exhibition continues Marclay's investigation into the relationship between sound and image through sampling elements from art and popular culture, and reflects the anxiety and frustration of the current global pandemic and political crises. The exhibition will be on view in the gallery from January 21 to March 25, 2021, and is accompanied by a musical performance by Elaine Mitchener, in which Marclay's collage *No!* serves as a score. The performance can be watched in our Online Viewing Room.

The voice is at the center of the exhibition. In a series of photographs showing screaming faces, cut and torn fragments from comic books, movie stills, and images found on the internet are arranged into haunting, mask-like composites, and then recorded by the camera. Capturing the paper's inherent creases and tears, the photographs mix analog and digital elements, and investigate the computer screen as a contemporary physical surface.

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This exhibition marks the premiere of *Fire, 2020*, a hypnotic new animation. Using small pieces cut from comic books, the single-channel video work is an impressionistic representation of fire. Over fifteen hundred photographs shown in rapid succession suggest a flip book, creating the illusion of a flickering, fiery mosaic in motion. Flames are also the subject of *Raging Fire, 2020*, a large collage made of paper cutouts from comic book illustrations of fire. The piece transforms representations of all manner of war, catastrophe, explosion, and arson into abstracted yellows, oranges, and reds in a variety of styles.

Also on view will be *No!, 2019*, a set of 15 original collages made from comic book fragments. Conceived as a graphic score for a solo voice, these original collages were scanned and made into an edition to be used by performers. While earlier works such as *Manga Scroll, 2010*, incorporated onomatopoeias disconnected from their generative action, *No!* uses vocal utterances, facial expressions, and body movements to prompt a performance. Writes Marclay, "Like my earlier graphic scores dating back to the 1990s, the use of words that illustrate their sonic counterparts engages non-traditional visualizations of sound as a possibility for generating music." As in his music and video works, which splice together found recordings and film footage, the comic book segments are culled and re-contextualized in vibrant, dynamic ways.

Christian Marclay (born 1955) works in a sampling aesthetic, using fragments from the ephemera of popular culture to create new forms and meanings. Marclay's work has been shown in museums and galleries internationally, including recent major one-person exhibitions at Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as well as Kunsthau, Zurich; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Marclay received the Golden Lion award for best artist at the 54th Venice Biennale for his 24-hour virtuosic video piece, *The Clock*, which has been shown widely to great acclaim. His work is in the collection of Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Kunsthalle Zurich; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal; Philadelphia Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Tate Modern, London; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

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Image: Christian Marclay, *Untitled (Crying), 2020*

For press inquiries and images, please contact Rebecca Robertson at 415.981.2661 or
rrobertson@fraenkelgallery.com