

For Immediate Release

*Richard Serra Composites*

February 15 – April 17, 2020

Opening Reception Saturday, February 15, 3 – 6 p.m.



Richard Serra  
*Composite XVII*, 2019  
2 color aquatint with screenprinted Paintstik/etching ink  
29" x 38 ½" (73.66 x 97.79 cm)  
Edition of 38

Gemini G.E.L. is pleased to present a new series of limited edition prints by Richard Serra. *Composites* consists of twenty-two editions, which the artist began to develop in 2017. Related to two series of drawings, *Rambles* (2015) and *Composites* (2016), these new works combine the processes of aquatint and screenprinting. A marked departure from the appearance of previous series, *Composites* are dynamic in their mottled surfaces and exploration of texture and saturation. With a rhythmic play of densities and depths, the surfaces are activated through the masterful application of varying printing techniques and materials.

As is standard in Serra's works on paper, the *Composites* maintain his dedication to the monochrome. While faithful to the artist's use of all black pigment, these new works offer subtle, unexpected color variations upon closer inspection. The works require both a close look and a view from afar to fully capture every element of the composition. The color variations are achieved through the use of different etching inks, including black and graphite, printed onto handmade Japanese paper using a copper plate. The result is an array of tones similar to camouflage. A mixture of Paintstik and etching ink is then applied through a coarse silkscreen in one or more layers, giving further depth to the texture. The handmade paper is either torn to create a clean edge, or left with the undulating deckle exposed to lighten the solidity and strength of the heavy surface. The series is comprised of twenty-two remarkably nuanced editions, each offering a unique exploration of Serra's artistic practices.

Born in San Francisco, California in 1939, Richard Serra is one the most significant artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He has exhibited extensively in major museums and has created site-specific sculptures for both public and private venues



across the world. Serra's work has been the subject of two retrospectives at the Museum of Modern Art, the first in 1986 and the second in 2007. Other major solo exhibitions have been presented by the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain (1999); American Academy in Rome, Italy (2000); Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri (2003); Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Italy (2004); Kunsthaus Bregenz (2008); and at *MONUMENTA*, Grand Palais, Paris (2008). "Richard Serra Drawing: A Retrospective," Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2011) traveled to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and The Menil Collection, Houston. Serra's numerous site-specific sculptures include *The Matter of Time* (2005), a series of eight large-scale works that were installed as part of the inaugural exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; and *East-West/West-East* (2014), which was permanently installed in the desert of the Brouq Nature Reserve in Western Qatar. Serra participated in documenta in 1972, 1977, 1982, and 1987; and in the Biennale di Venezia in 1980, 1984, 2001, and 2013. In 2015, Serra was awarded Les Insignes de Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur, France; and in 2018, Serra received a J. Paul Getty Medal in honor of extraordinary contributions to the practice, understanding, and support of the arts. Serra lives and works in New York and Nova Scotia, Canada.

Gemini G.E.L. is open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5:30 PM.

For sales inquiries, please contact Renee Coppola, Director of Sales at [Renee@geminigel.com](mailto:Renee@geminigel.com).

For further information please contact the gallery at: 323.651.0513 or visit [www.geminigel.com](http://www.geminigel.com)

