



Richard Serra
Equal I, 2018
RS16-4028
Paintstik and silica on two sheets of handmade paper
Overall 71 ½" x 39" (181.6 x 99.1 cm)
Edition of 24

For Immediate Release

Richard Serra
Equals

On View September 24th
Opening Reception Saturday, October 6th from 4 to 7 pm

Gemini G.E.L. is pleased to present a new series of works by Richard Serra, *Equals*, on view from September 24th.

Comprised of eight "wall-hangings," *Equals* were created through the application of Paintstik on handmade Japanese paper. Each *Equal* is made up of two rectangular panels arranged as vertical "pairings" in which one form is placed on top of another. The works are installed flush to the wall thanks to an invisible cleat system. Without a frame, the viewer is left with a pure experience of the artwork itself, freed from a traditional presentation. Though the corresponding panels within each work are equal in area dimensions, the individual rectangles appear to be different sizes depending on how they are oriented. Made with Gemini master printers Xavier Fumat, Garrett Metz, and Isaac Osher, *Equals* directly relate to a forged steel sculpture that Serra completed in 2015. In the sculpture and the Gemini artworks, Serra manipulates and readjusts the equal mass to make them seemingly unequal in size and weight. As if using weight as a medium in and of itself, Serra describes:

Weight is a value to me, not that it is any more compelling than lightness, but I simply know more about weight than lightness and therefore I have more to say about it, more to say about the balancing of weight, the diminishing of



weight, the addition and subtraction of weight, the concentration of weight, the rigging of weight, the propping of weight, the placement of weight, the locking of weight, the psychological effects of weight, the directionality of weight, the shape of weight.

In addition to the *Equals*, the exhibition features the monumental piece *Double Rift III*, as well as three etchings from the *Finally Finished* series. *Double Rift III* is comprised of three panels and measures 15 feet in length by 7.8 feet in height. Each impression was individually applied with thick layers of black Paintstik and silica on custom Hiromi Igarashi handmade paper in an edition of 12. This striking, voluminous piece is not just a work on paper, but also an artwork that reaches beyond the parameters of the traditional print to interact with the viewer and the architecture, expanding and compressing our perception and sense of space.

Also included in the exhibition are etchings from Serra's *Finally Finished* series. This body of work began over 17 years ago, around the time he was working on his *Torqued Ellipses* sculptures. In creating *Finally Finished*, Serra first made a drawing of the image on Mylar using molten Korn's Rubbing Ink. The drawing was then transferred onto a copper plate. When the plate was then processed in an acid bath, the thicker areas of the drawing bit into the plate deeper than the less thick areas. This deep etching resulted in a beautiful effect, and dramatic degree of texture within the fluid, curving lines. Serra has stated about other works on paper, "I want to avoid a service which could be read as gestural. I want my surfaces to be as anonymous as possible so that they don't call attention to themselves." The resulting prints are not illustrative, but offer a means to perceive, to feel, and to think about the world.

Born in San Francisco, California in 1939, Richard Serra is one the most significant artists of the 21st 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 recent exhibitions include the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain (1999); American Academy in Rome, Italy (2000); Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri (2003, 2014); Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Italy (2004); "Richard Serra Drawings—Work Comes Out of Work," Kunsthau Bregenz (2008); "Promenade," Monumenta, Grand Palais, Paris (2008); "Richard Serra Drawing: A Retrospective," Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2011, traveled to San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California; and The Menil were installed as part of the inaugural exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. East-West/West-East (2014) was permanently installed in the desert of the Brouq Nature Reserve in western Qatar in 2014. Serra has 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. Serra lives and works in New York and Nova Scotia, Canada.

For inquires, please contact Renee Coppola, Director of Sales at renee@geminigel.com

For further information please contact the gallery at: 323 651 0513 or visit www.geminigel.com

