

LUHRING AUGUSTINE CHELSEA

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Reinhard Mucha

Before the Wall came down / Lennep, [2013] 2008 / 2009

Luhring Augustine Chelsea

September 7 – October 19, 2024

Luhring Augustine is pleased to announce Reinhard Mucha's **Before the Wall came down / Lennep** [2013] 2008 / 2009 will be presented in our Chelsea gallery concurrently with the Joanne Leonard & Brittany Nelson exhibition from September 7 through October 19, 2024.

For decades, Mucha's celebrated multifaceted practice has delved into themes of collective memory, history-making, and structures of power. His insightful examinations of cultural systems, particularly those related to the complex history of his native Germany, call forth critical conversations surrounding institutions and politics of display. Composited by Mucha with a formal rigor that nods to Minimalism, his assemblages of raw materials and found objects – wood, aluminum, flooring, footstools, carpenter rulers – elude explicit reading or meaning. The arrangement is the beginning: abstracted and recontextualized from their original functions, the materials are elevated and transformed in this new condition that releases their latent nostalgic, intellectual, and narrative potential. Mucha's "history and memory boxes" (Hans-Jürgen Hafnerⁱ) are vessels with networks of references that speak not only to his own biography, but also that of the collective history and culture.

About the artist

Reinhard Mucha was born in Düsseldorf, Germany in 1950. He studied at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art under Klaus Rinke, developing his unique practice, later having seminal exhibitions of his work in the 1980s and 1990s. Such exhibitions include **Gladbeck**, his solo exhibition at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris in 1986; **Das Deutschlandgerät** at the 44th Venice Biennale in 1990, and on view since 2002 at Kunstsammlung NRW, Düsseldorf; **Dokumente I – IV** at documenta IX, Kassel in 1992; **Mutterseelenallein** at the Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt a. M. in 1991-1999, and on view since 2009 at Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin; **Wartesaal** at documenta X, Kassel in 1997; and **Stockholmer Raum**, (Für Rafael Moneo), at the Moderna Museet, Stockholm and at Luhring Augustine, New York in 1998-1999. The most recent exhibition, "Der Mucha: An Initial Suspicion" was a major presentation at the Kunstsammlung Düsseldorf in 2022. Mucha's work is included in the permanent collections of numerous international public institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Modern, London; Staatlich Museen zu Berlin / Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Art Institute of Chicago; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Städelmuseum, Frankfurt a. M.; Castello di Rivoli, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin; Rubell Family Collection, Miami; Glenstone Collection, Potomac; and Kunstmuseum Basel. Mucha resides in Düsseldorf, Germany and in Saint-Haon-le-Vieux, France.

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ⁱ Hafner, Hans-Jürgen. "Der Mucha – Ein Anfangsverdacht: Der Anti-Kiefer." *Artmagazine*, 19 October 2022, artmagazine.cc/content121242.html.