

GLADSTONE GALLERY

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THOMAS HIRSCHHORN

MY THING – my big thing – over the past 10 years and for the next 10 years has been and will be collages. They are essential to me. I make two-dimensional and three-dimensional ones. Creating a collage means creating a new world with elements of the existing world. This is why collages are often not taken seriously. Making them seems suspicious and is considered unprofessional, but these are precisely the arguments that demonstrate collages' resistance. Collages resist facts; collages resist information; collages resist documentation. They create a truth of their own. I believe that in our world of opinions, they are fantastic tools (or weapons) of resistance. Making collages still means working with explosive matter. Collages have the ability to reach a public – a public I call the "non-exclusive audience." Everybody has, once in his or her lifetime, made a collage. Everybody has had, once in his or her lifetime, the sensation that the world can be reinvented, that it is so easy, and that it is really possible to do it through a collage. But then you're told, immediately, "That is too easy to do, too simple and too obvious!" This is exactly what I want to insist upon: simple, easy, obvious work. I want to make basic, rough, primitive work; I want to make crude collages. I want to reach the origins of collage: to bring together what doesn't fit together, to bring together what only I think should be brought together, what only I see, what only I know, what only I can do. Because I understand the world I am living in as one world, as the unique and the only world, as the one single world. And I love living in this difficult, contradictory, complicated and beautiful world. I love to create collages and in doing so, I aim to create work that reaches the universal.

Thomas Hirschhorn is a Swiss artist who lives and works in London. He is best known for his ongoing installation *Hotel Democracy*, a 40-room model hotel in which each room presents a facet of what the word "democracy" might mean. It was most recently reincarnated at this year's Art Basel. Thomas Hirschhorn holds *Collage-Serie B-II*. Photography by Romain Lopez

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