

GLADSTONE GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Matthew Barney
"DJED"
530 West 21st Street
September 17 through October 22

Gladstone Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new sculpture by Matthew Barney. "DJED" marks Barney's first New York exhibition of the "Ancient Evenings" project, which has been in progress since 2007. Featuring three large-scale sculptures, this exhibition represents a departure from Barney's signature materials, presenting his first major works produced from traditional sculptural and industrial metals such as iron, bronze, lead and copper. The exhibition will also include new drawings, which delicately map the character and thematic development of the project.

"Ancient Evenings" is a multi-part project structured as a site-specific opera in collaboration with Jonathan Bepler, loosely based on Norman Mailer's 1983 novel of the same title. Set in ancient Egypt, Mailer's novel chronicles the seven stages of the soul's progression through death and rebirth according to Egyptian mythology, as told through the story of one man. While Mailer's narrative focuses on the transformation of the human body, Barney enacts the recurring cycles of reincarnation through the use of an automobile, creating a contemporary allegory of death and rebirth within the American industrial landscape. The sculptures on view are both formally and conceptually related to the 1967 Chrysler Crown Imperial from *Cremaster 3*. Revolving around three generations of American automobile design, the "Ancient Evenings" narrative is rooted in the reincarnation of its leading protagonist, the Chrysler Imperial.

Throughout "Ancient Evenings," the figure of the Chrysler Imperial both embodies the narrative of the project and carries it forward, weaving together the genealogies of material and myth into sculptural form. The centerpiece of the exhibition, *DJED*, is a monumental cast iron sculpture that was poured during a live performance of the opera's third act in 2010. The primary form of *DJED* is the undercarriage of the Chrysler Imperial, modified to evoke the pillar-like hieroglyph of the Egyptian god Osiris' power. For this work, twenty-five tons of molten iron were poured from five custom-built furnaces into an open, molded pit in the earth at the site of a derelict steel mill along the Detroit River.

"Ancient Evenings" continues Barney's program of the last twenty years, in which narrative sculpture is generated through a complex system of storytelling that intertwines personal, historical, and modern mythologies.

Matthew Barney was born in San Francisco in 1967 and lives and works in New York. One person exhibitions include: "The Cremaster Cycle," organized by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, which traveled to Museum Ludwig, Cologne and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. "Drawing Restraint," organized by the 21st Century Museum for Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan, which traveled to Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Serpentine Gallery, London; and Kunsthalle Vienna. The exhibition "Matthew Barney: Prayer Sheet with the Wound and the Nail" was on view at Schaulager/Laurenz Foundation in Basel, Switzerland in 2010. Barney has received numerous awards including the Aperto prize at the 1993 Venice Biennale; the Hugo Boss Award in 1996; the 2007 Kaiser Ring Award in Goslar, Germany and the San Francisco International Film Festival's Persistence of Vision Award in 2011.

For further information please contact Caroline Luce
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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am-6pm; Brussels Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 10am-6 pm; Saturday 12-6pm

515 West 24th Street
Lari Pittman
September 23 through October 22

12 Rue du Grand Cerf
Jean-Luc Mylayne
September 10 through November 5