

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Damián Ortega

Porous Structures

515 West 24th Street

May 1 – June 8, 2019

Opening May 1, 6-8pm

Gladstone Gallery is pleased to present *Porous Structures*, an exhibition of new sculptures and site-specific works by Damián Ortega. This show explores Ortega's longstanding interest in visually dissecting the underlying sociohistorical narratives embedded in everyday materials. Including a mix of works created with sand, cement, brick, clay, and crystals, *Porous Structures* excavates the materiality of permeable structures and objects, and how the cultural, political, and socio-economic implications of manufactured and natural constructions impact humankind in both a deeply personal and universal way.

For this exhibition, Ortega presents a series of distinct bodies of work that demonstrate the artist's incisive approach to his mediums, as well as his uncanny ability to transcend ordinary materials into objects with complex narratives. A series of cement-brick sculptures depicting geological figures such as the reinterpreted topography of a mountain range, glaciers, volcanos and valleys, highlight the ways in which human intervention and environmental erosion impact the creation of both natural and manmade objects. His use of brick is particularly significant and recurs through his oeuvre; Ortega recontextualizes building materials to highlight how raw matter can be transformed into structures or systems for habitation. *Modern sublease*, a helix-shaped, staircase-like structure made with cement and clay, similarly connects to the artist's interest in architecture and construction materials. As the viewer moves around the work, small crevices are revealed throughout the staircase, mimicking the architectural structure of a wasp's nest or the geometry of modernist urban planning, transforming this undulating, wall-like structure into a place for community and collaboration.

In his monumental new site-specific work, *Irregular emplacements*, which consists of two 7-foot-tall mountainous structures made with sand and cement cubes, Ortega conflates the process of creating sculpture with an economics of positive and negative spaces that the viewer enters into. This installation aims to question what constitutes a sculpture, and highlights the significance of both the physical object on display as well as the negative space surrounding the sculpture. Ranging from the intimate to the monumental, Ortega's works on view are both cultural artifacts and living objects in permanent transformation, existing as open structures that react and converse with the space inside and outside their physicality, housing and containing change over time.

Damián Ortega was born in 1967 in Mexico and currently lives and works in Mexico City and Berlin. He has had solo exhibitions at notable international venues including: Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow; The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, United Kingdom; Museo Reina-Sofia, Madrid; Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro; HangarBicocca, Milan; Museo Jumex, Mexico City; The Cleveland Museum of Art; the Barbican, London; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Tate Modern, London; Kunsthalle Basel; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; and Centre Pompidou, Paris. Ortega participated in the 55th Venice Biennale (2013); the 27th São Paulo Biennial (2006); the 4th Berlin Biennial (2006); and the 50th Venice Biennale (2003).

Vivian Suter
530 West 21st Street
April 11 – June 8, 2019

Lina Bo Bardi & Giancarlo Piretti
130 East 64th Street
April 27 – June 15, 2019

Anicka Yi
12 Rue du Grand Cerf
April 23 – June 15, 2019

For further information, please contact Andrew Huff: ahuff@gladstonegallery.com
New York gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm
Brussels gallery hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10am–6pm and Saturday, 12pm–6pm