

RANCINAN CHAOS



OPERA GALLERY

RANCINAN
CHAOS

PREFACE

It is our great pleasure to host for the second time in Hong Kong award winning French photographer Gérard Rancinan showcasing his latest series titled "Chaos".

Rancinan's post-developed practice of staged photography references history, popular culture and Western art, as a critical and sometimes satirical commentary on social and political issues. By juxtaposing classical archetypes with pop-imagery, he blurs the fine line between high and low art.

Featuring 20 visually seductive and epically proactive original photographs, the works tell a dramatized narrative of humanity's battle between social order and chaos, inevitably falling into the fate of civil and moral degeneration. The visual display of the exhibition moves between populated scenes of barbaric disorder to desolated scenes of its aftermath. Influenced by major world movements of globalization, religion, politics and the growing domination of the Internet, Rancinan gives a critical take through the eye of his lens.

Highlights from the exhibition include:

Press Power - describing the force possessed by modern media as a lethal weapon that can destroy person's life with the power of the printed word. In reference to the renowned phrase "A picture is worth a thousand words", the work transmits the notion of the overwhelming role media plays in modern life.

My Life on the Web - the centre installation in the gallery, is situated inside an enclosed panel and can be viewed only through a peephole. As an interactive experience, audiences' curiosity inevitably overcomes and they look through the hole to find an illuminated scene of eroticism. The minute long peeping implicates the viewer by inviting his passive participation into events of moral corruption.

The Feast of the Barbarians - a monumental spectacle of social misfits and taboos with ironic reference to Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. Depicting chaotic scenes of subversion and anarchy, the work also trigger fears of loss of control.

Showcasing Rancinan's *mises en scène* photography is the overtly violent *Riots*, a contemporary portrait of the American Revolution ridden with violence and gang

wars, where the ashened city of New York is overruled by corruption.

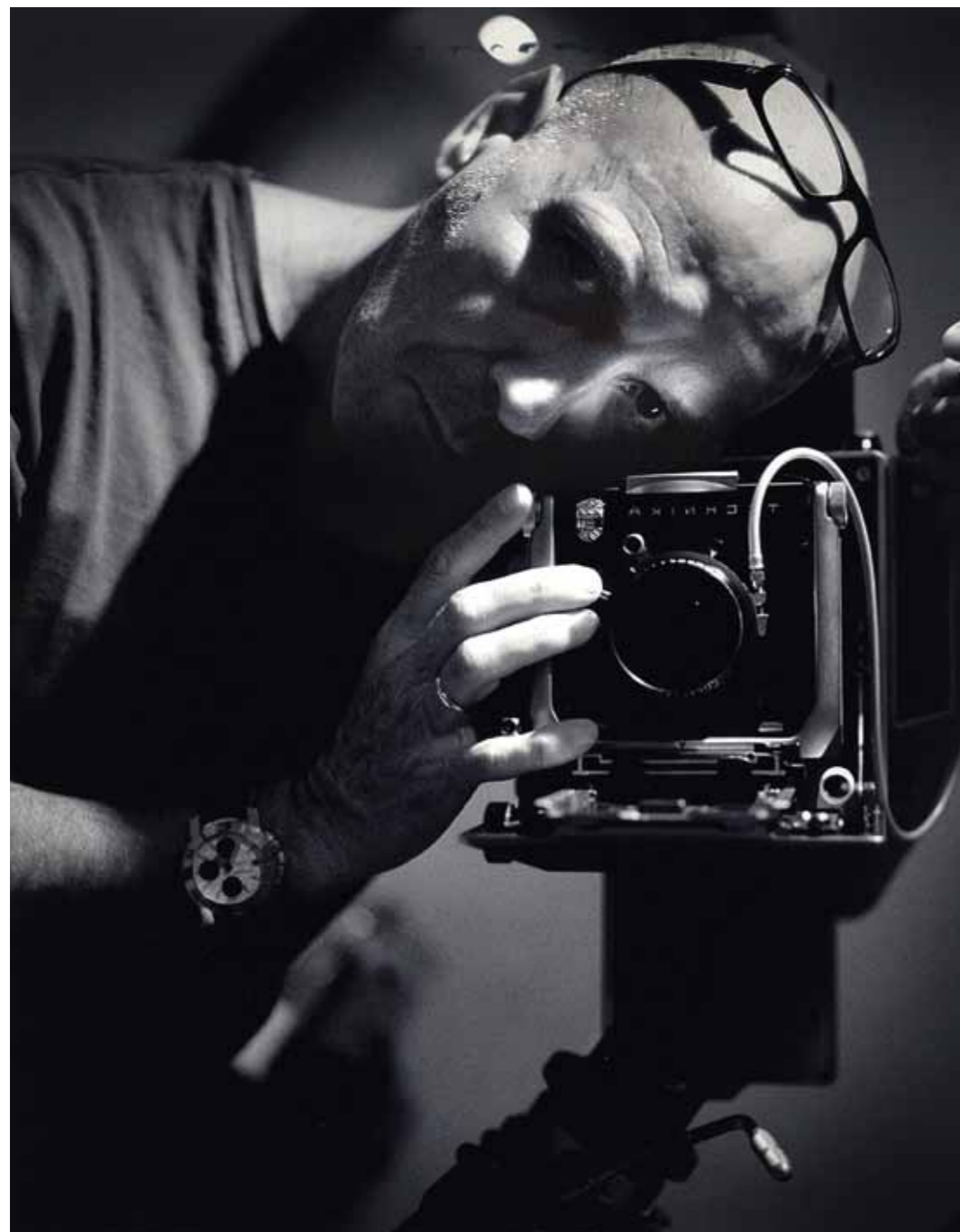
This exhibition will also host selected artworks from the photographer's recent series "A Small Man in a Big World", on which the artist offers us his vision of Mankind. The Man of today is overwhelmed by the world of media, virtual intelligence and moral censorship he has created. Rancinan plays with our relationship to society in very uncluttered and engaged photographs.

Internationally renowned, Gérard Rancinan's work is exhibited in prestigious museums throughout the world including Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Danubiana Museum in Slovakia and Triennale of Milan in Italy. This year for the first time he will showcase a major solo exhibition in the Himalayas Art Museum in Shanghai, China.

We look forward to welcoming you to this mesmerizing exhibition and further welcome Rancinan great return to Hong Kong!

Gilles Dyan
Founder and Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

Shirley Yablonsky
Director
Opera Gallery Hong Kong



BIOGRAPHY

Born in the Bordeaux region (France), Gérard Rancinan travels the globe, bearing first hand witness to events of historical importance. Natural catastrophes, civil and ethnic wars, and urban riots... he comes face to face with the complexity of the human condition and random events by which it is fashioned. His imperious need for self-expression leads him to focus on the world's most important issues. He delivers startling images filtered through an ever-evolving aesthetic prism.

Constantly breaking down barriers, he is, by turn, an investigator deconstructing the great sagas of contemporary life, and a portraitist. His photographs of athletes, artists, ecclesiastics and politicians have become iconic. His images have earned him a number of prizes, including four prestigious World Press Awards.

Following his domain of predilection, in the "Trilogy of the Moderns", "Chaos" and the recent "A Small Man in a Big World", he becomes the wakeful observers of his contemporaries. This marginal perspective involves real *mises en scène*, veritable simulacra of the world in which we live.

Internationally renowned, Gérard Rancinan's work is exhibited in museums around the world and featured in the most important contemporary art collections. In 2012, Gérard Rancinan was awarded the prestigious title of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, France's premier award of honour.

Chaos

History is born of Chaos and Man is shaped by the turbulences of his life. In this new artistic venture, Gérard Rancinan plays witness to the desires within that disrupt the codes, take possession of free will and usurp identity. These men are sometimes modern-day Barbarians freeing themselves from society's codes, the traditions of everyday life and the human genre, thus heralding a new civilization to come. They are rebelling, taking back their freedom and claiming their right to freethinking. The symbol of the riot becomes the symbol of our societies on a quest of self-recovery. They also represent a new generation of transparency and sharing of what's intimate thanks to the use of new technologies... The chaos of our times as a promise of rebirth.

Chaos
The Feast of the Barbarians
2013

Argentique print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
180 x 267 cm - 70.9 x 105.1 in.
Edition of 3





Chaos
Press Power
2013

Argentinc print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
150 x 220 cm - 59.1 x 86.6 in.
Edition of 6



Chaos
Chaos is Life
2012

Argentinc print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
180 x 187 cm - 70.9 x 73.6 in.
Edition of 3



Chaos
Still Lives Flower
2013

Argentinc print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
Triptych 125 x 375 cm - 49.2 x 147.6 in.
Edition of 8

Chaos
My Life on the Web
2012

Argentig print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
125 x 180 cm - 49.2 x 70.9 in.
Edition of 8





Chaos
Riots
2012 | Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
180 x 280 cm - 70.9 x 110.2 in.
Edition of 5



Chaos
Blood & Water
2012

Argentinc print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
Triptych 84 x 300 cm - 33.1 x 118.1 in.
Edition of 3

Chaos
Ocean 0
2013

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
70 x 150 cm - 27.6 x 59.1 in.
Edition of 1



A Wonderful World

When men have finally freed themselves from all responsibility and all commitment, when they have unburdened themselves of the idea of courage, they will at last be able to live entirely in their artificial world. A happy, ideal, festive world: a Wonderful World. Like a giant funfair, this strange universe will be home to a host of superheroes, new universal idols living in untrammelled freedom. The rules of the game have been defined: permanent entertainment, necessary infantilisation, absolute virtuality, universal happiness... A Wonderful World in which reality no longer exists, in which it is possible to be someone else. But the schizophrenic delirium of its inhabitants - men and women transformed into real life versions of Mickey Mouse, Scrooge McDuck and Pinocchio - invites an ironic gaze. Wonderful World is a contemporary mirror reflecting either a simple sarcastic fable or, if we are not careful, a troubling reality.

A Wonderful World
Salomé in Wonderland Detail 2
2011

Argentique print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
180 x 180 cm - 70.9 x 70.9 in.
Edition of 3





A Wonderful World
The Real Last Supper
2012

Argentig print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
180 x 300 cm - 70.9 x 118.1 in.
Edition of 3

A Small Man in a Big World

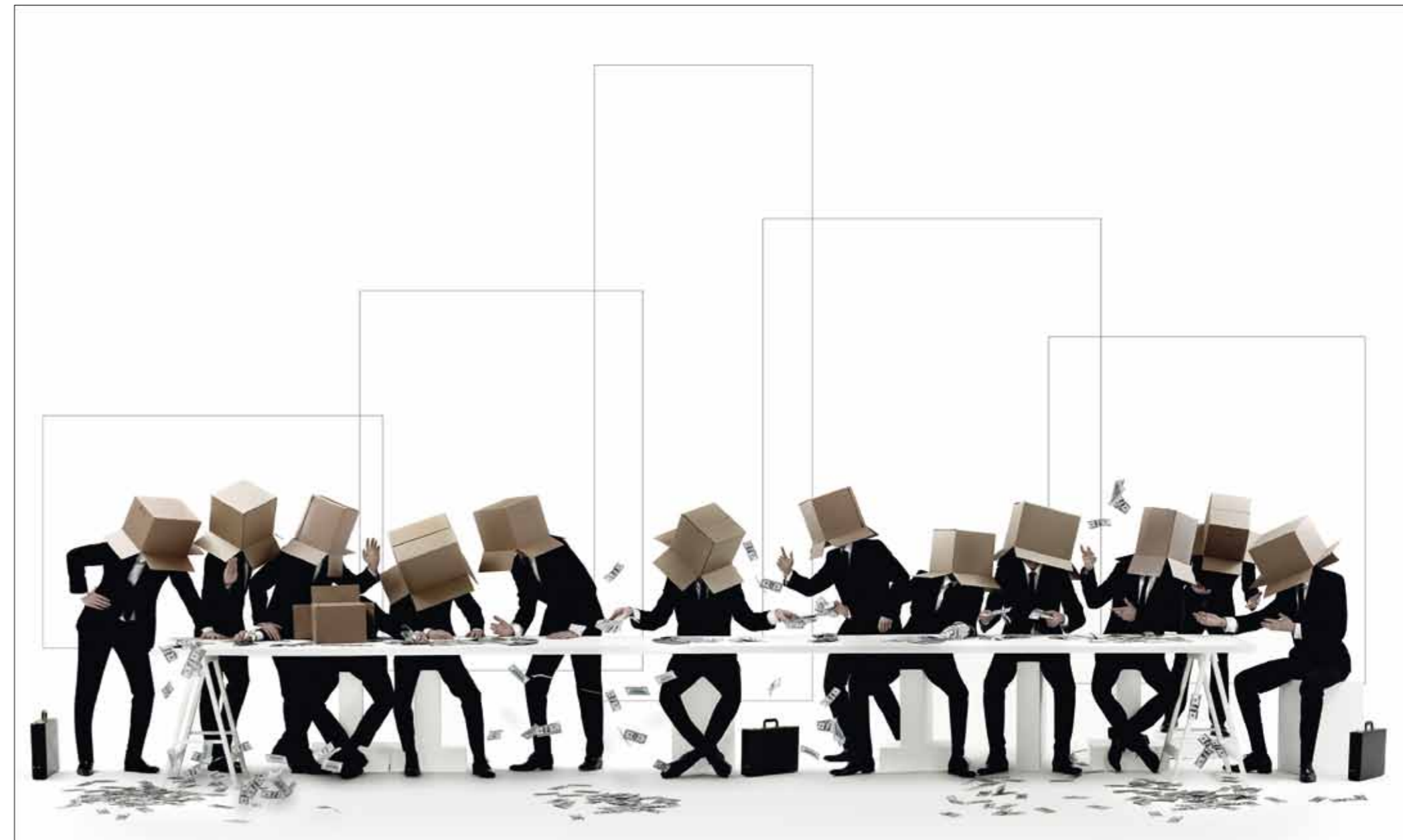
With this new exhibit, Rancinan offers an intimate and profound vision of Mankind. Dressed in the same, unchanging suit, with its characteristic elegance, this civilized Man is harangued by incessant questions and overwhelmed by the world he has created: the media, virtual intelligence, bio-technologies, constant surveillance, censorship, moral dictators, impostures, political spin, a value system that's been turned upside down, conservative thinking, a 'money-is-king' philosophy...

Rancinan plays with his protagonist's relationship to society like he plays with the proportions in his work. This 'Little Big Man' in a corporate suit sometimes likes to hide himself in the corners of the canvas' frame.

The vivacity of the artist as a witness of his times is always felt; but here, humanity is broached with such incredible, poetic talent. As if the artist were trying to give his characters another chance...

A Small Man in a Big World
Gang Bank
2013

Argentique print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
180 x 300 cm - 70.9 x 118.1 in.
Edition of 3





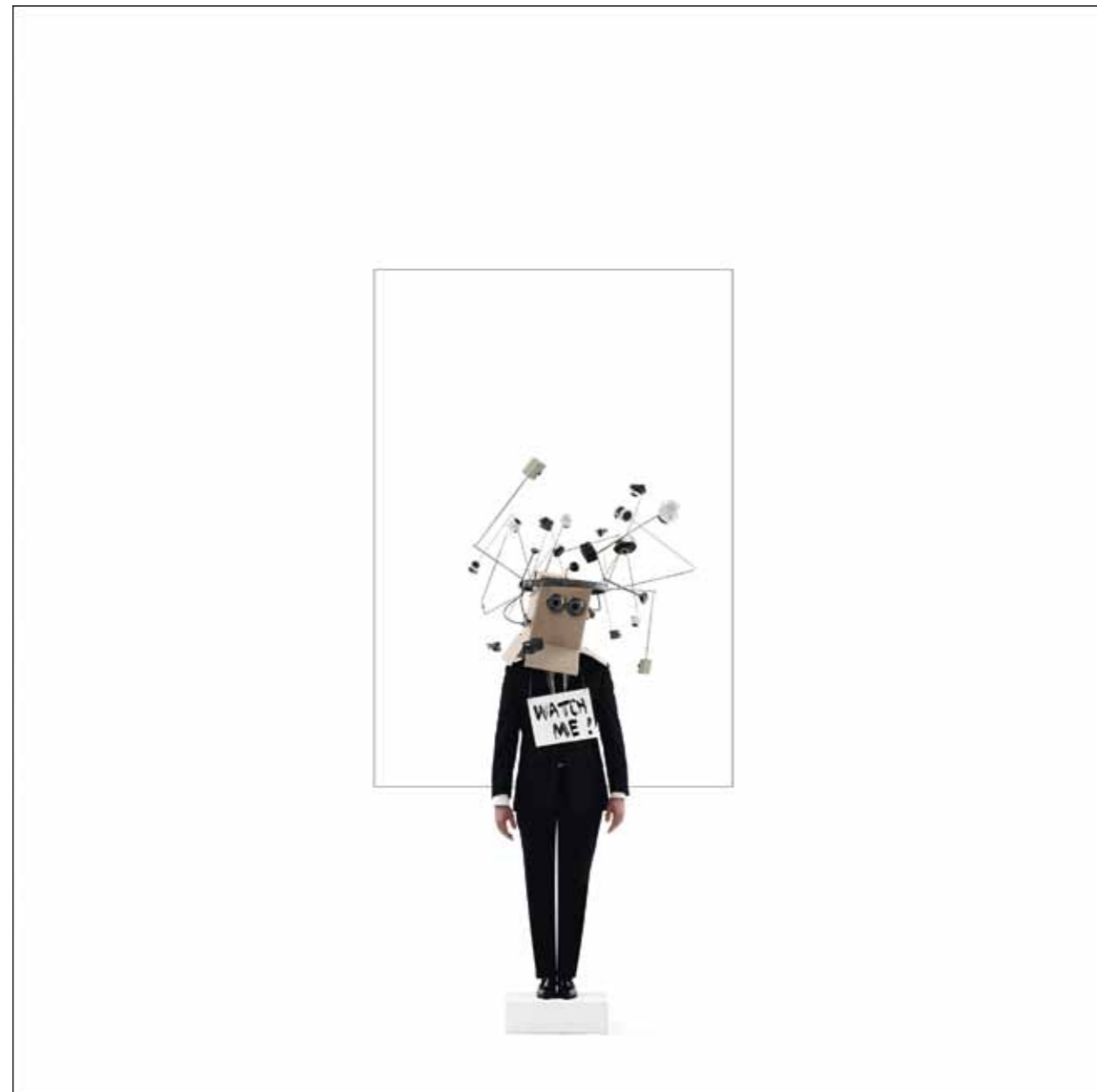
A Small Man in a Big World
 Man Repaired II
 2013

Argentig print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
 125 x 208 cm - 49.2 x 81.9 in.
 Edition of 8

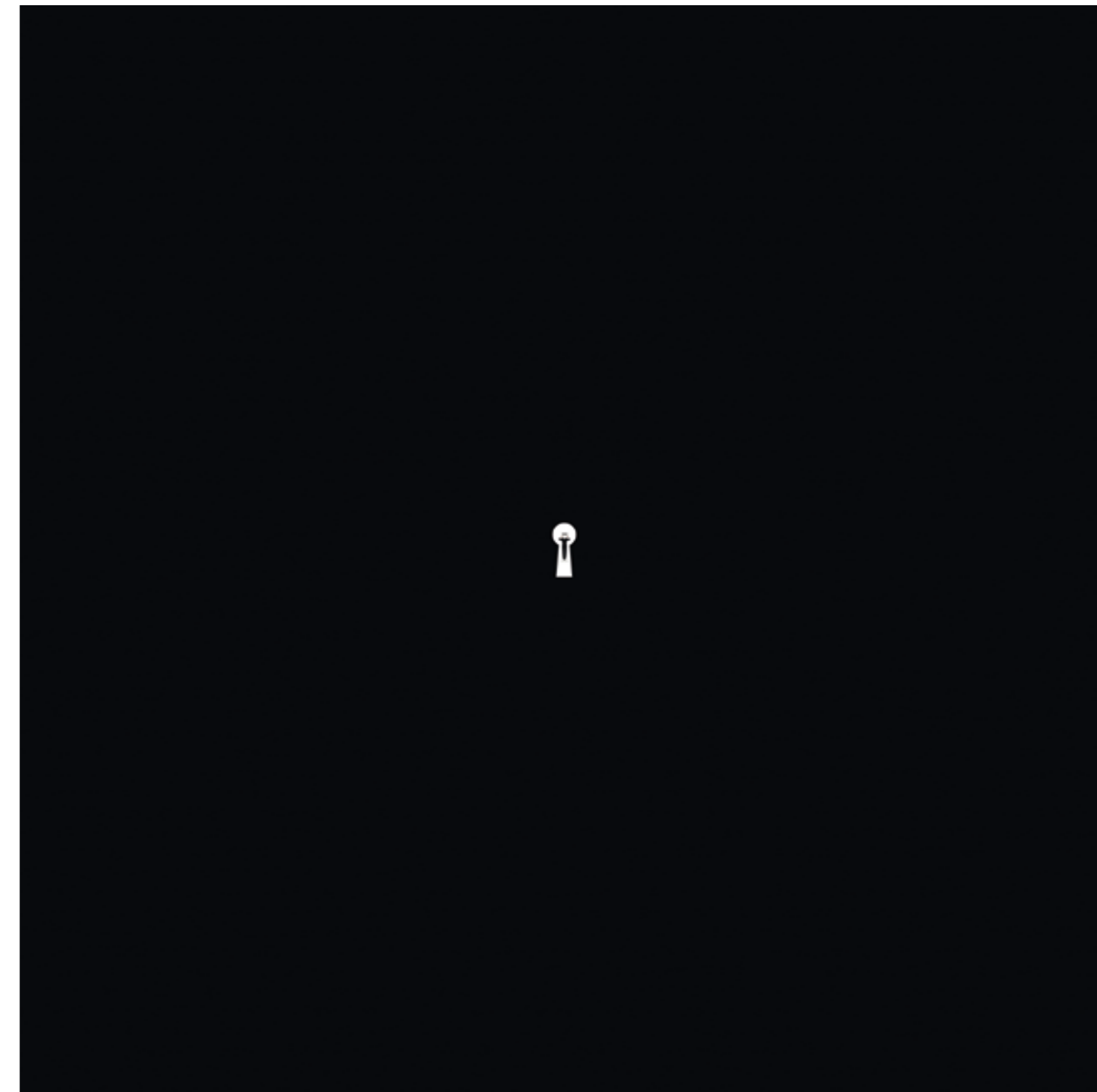


A Small Man in a Big World
 Man Repaired III
 2013

Argentig print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
 125 x 208 cm - 49.2 x 81.9 in.
 Edition of 8



A Small Man in a Big World
Watch Me
2013
Argentica print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
150 x 150 cm - 59.1 x 59.1 in.
Edition of 6



A Small Man in a Big World
Curious
2013
Argentica print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
150 x 150 cm - 59.1 x 59.1 in.
Edition of 6

Small Man in a Big World
Am I Real?
2013

Argentinc print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame
125 x 180 cm - 49.2 x 70.9 in.
Edition of 8





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