

# Jake & Dinos Chapman

## *The Disasters of Everyday Life*

4 October — 11 November 2017

Private View: Thursday 5 October, 6-8pm

Blain|Southern  
4 Hanover Square  
London W1S 1BP



Jake & Dinos Chapman, *The Disasters of Everyday Life*, 2017  
Courtesy the artists and Blain|Southern, Photo: Prudence Cuming

*Truth – and justice – require calm, and yet they only belong to the violent.* G. Bataille

For their first exhibition with Blain|Southern, Jake & Dinos Chapman expand on their career-long preoccupation with Francisco Goya's series of etchings, *The Disasters of War*. *The Disasters of Everyday Life* presents, for the first time, their latest body of sculptural work in a dialogue with three full sets of Goya's prints, each set substantially reworked in a different way by the Chapman brothers.

The Chapmans' oeuvre represents a prolonged philosophical investigation into the turmoil and violence of contemporary existence, placing them in a tradition of protest and pessimism in the visual arts alongside artists such as Goya, Bruegel and Otto Dix (both Bruegel and Dix painted works titled *The Triumph of Death*). Dix's paintings revealed the grotesque face of capitalism inherent in both world wars. His series of prints *The War* sits alongside Goya's in its extensive, graphic depictions of the battlefield. What then are the battlefields of the twenty-first century as depicted by Jake and Dinos Chapman?

We live in an age when the American president delivers midnight tweets to taunt his foes, and you can choose to see beheadings on YouTube. There is a battle of images, and a battle of tribes who claim to own the future. So how can imagery avoid being co-opted for these ends? Jake & Dinos Chapman's reworking of Goya's work has a vivid wit of its own, a level of engagement and delight that expresses what could be described as a 'joyful nihilism.' Their works are not only an allusion to a certain artistic and philosophical tradition, but a way to free scenes of spectacular and systemic violence from a system that they have unwittingly become a part of. By turning soldiers into an army of gargoyles or by removing the human element altogether, by adding glitter to a massacre or by placing a self-satisfied beachgoer amid dismembered bodies, the work helps to undermine 'the seduction of violence in the age of spectacle.'<sup>1</sup> And yet the Chapmans do not seek solutions or consolations: they keep their eyes and minds wide open, refusing to shy away from depicting the absurd and irredeemable brutishness of our present age and human progress in general.

<sup>1</sup> 'Disposable Futures, The Seduction of Violence in the Age of Spectacle' by Brad Evans and Henry A. Giroux

## Notes to Editors

### About the artists

Dinos Chapman (b.1962, London, UK) received his BA at Ravensbourne College of Art in 1981 and his MA at the Royal College of Art in 1990. Jake Chapman (b.1966, Cheltenham, UK), received his BA at North East London Polytechnic in 1988 and his MA at the Royal College of Art in 1990.

Over the past two decades, the Chapman brothers have created one of the most distinctive oeuvres in contemporary art. Their tableaux of twentieth-century ruin take on everything from the fast-food industry to our culture's preoccupation with war and violence. Deft in a range of media, which includes printmaking, painting and sculpture, the Chapmans often contaminate or remake an existing artwork to challenge our most valued beliefs. With their sharp wit and playful intelligence, Jake & Dinos Chapman never shy away from deflating the pieties of our age.

Selected solo exhibitions include: CASS Presents: Jake & Dinos Chapman, Cass Sculpture Foundation, West Sussex, UK (2017), *In the Realm of the Senseless*, ARTER, Istanbul, TR (2017); *Magasin III*, Stockholm, SE (2016); *Homage To Freud, Eggs and Bacon*, Gabriel Rolt, Amsterdam, NL (2015); *Ruminations on Cosmic Insignificance*, Brandts Museum, Odense, DK (2015); *In the Realm of the Unmentionable*, Jerwood Gallery, Hastings, UK (2014); *Come and See*, Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London, UK (2013); *Chicken*, Pinchuk Art Center, Kiev, UA (2013); *The End of Fun*, The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, RU (2012); *Jake & Dinos Chapman*, Museo Pino Pascali, Polignano a Mare, IT (2010); *Once Upon A Time*, Hastings Museum, Hasting, UK (2009); Kestner Gesellschaft Hannover, Hanover, DE (2008); *When Humans Walked the Earth*, Tate Britain, London, UK (2007); *Bad Art for Bad People*, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK (2006); *Explaining Christians to Dinosaurs*, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, AT (2005).

Selected group exhibitions include: *Heaven and Hell*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL (2016); *Takeshi Murakami's Superflat Collection - From Shōhaku and Rosanjin to Anselm Kiefer*, Yokohama Art Museum, Yokohama, JP (2016); *Le Rêve*, Musée Cantini, Marseille, FR (2016); *Disasters of War 1800 - 2014*, Louvre-Lens Museum, Lens, FR (2014); *M16: Peace one Day*, ICA, London, UK (2014); *Damage Control: Art and Destruction since 1950*, MUDAM, Luxembourg, LU (2014); *Iconoclasm*, Tate Britain, London, UK (2013); *Capita Selecta Groninger Museum*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, NL (2013); 1st Kiev International Biennale, UA (2012), *The Beauty of Distance*, 17th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, AU (2010); *Spanish Muse: A Contemporary Response*, Meadows Museum, Dallas, US (2010); *Rude Britannia*, Tate Britain, London, UK (2010); *Curious*, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE (2010); *National Center of Contemporary Art*, Moscow, RU (2009); *Where Is The Wind, When It Doesn't Blow?*, Kunstverein Hamburg, Hamburg, DE (2009); *Medals of Dishonour*, British Museum, London, UK (2009); *Les Caprices de Goya*, Palais des Beaux Arts de Lille, Lille, FR (2008); The Turner Price, Tate Britain, London, UK (2003).

### About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern is a contemporary art gallery based in London and Berlin. The gallery represents an international roster of contemporary artists and is the world-wide representative of The Estate of Lynn Chadwick. The gallery's recent exhibitions include Mat Collishaw, Jonas Burgert, Amy Feldman, Tim Noble & Sue Webster, Nasan Tur, Chiharu Shiota, Ed Moses, Bruce Nauman and the critically acclaimed group show, *Revolt of the Sage*.

Blain|Southern  
4 Hanover Square  
London W1S 1BP

Monday to Friday: 10am - 6pm  
Saturday: 10am - 5pm

+44(0) 20 7493 4492  
blainsouthern.com

For further information on the exhibition, please contact Laura Callendar at Blain|Southern

T: +44 (0) 20 7493 4492

M: +44 (0) 79 3904 9731

E: [laura@blainsouthern.com](mailto:laura@blainsouthern.com)