



David Weiss – Graphic Works – 1968-1979
December 10 – February 22, 2015

Swiss artist David Weiss (1946-2012) is world renown for his sculptural, photographic and video work made in collaboration with Peter Fischli beginning in 1979. This exhibition of his lesser-known, solo graphic work from 1968-1979 brings together an exceptional group of works on paper, many of which were exhibited in a brilliant show at the Bündner Kunstmuseum in Chur, Switzerland in Spring 2014. By working closely with Weiss's estate, *David Weiss - Graphic Works - 1968-1979* at Swiss Institute will also include additional, never-before-seen material from the artist's archive that provides unprecedented insight into his formative years.

Already by 1979, David Weiss had developed an extensive and varied system of figurative, comic-book-like and abstract drawing, which is at once both playfully humorous and ironically existential. Throughout this period, he absorbed all the rapid political, cultural and art historical shifts that he observed both in Zürich as well as in his extensive travels to the United States, reflecting them back in the keenly incisive references and uniquely exacting aesthetic of these works. Though set aside and virtually unknown to the public for over 30 years, in the months before his death in 2012, Weiss began to organize his early works on paper, notebooks and sketchbooks, culminating in this exhibition and the posthumous publication of *Nine Books 1973-1979* by Edition Patrick Frey,

The rarely seen works conjure up cartoonish imagery, abstract compositions and cinematic cityscapes, signaling some of the subsequent artistic innovations of Fischli/Weiss's celebrated oeuvre, which will be shown in a major retrospective at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in Spring 2016. A unique occasion to explore the genesis of the prolific and irreverent vocabulary of one of contemporary art's most influential figures, the works in this exhibition also stand alone as an important artistic legacy that appears as fresh today as it did when it was first exhibited.

Media Contact: Dan Tanzilli, Third Eye
dan@hellothirdeye.com, +1 646-789 1132

SWISS INSTITUTE PROGRAMMING IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH PUBLIC FUNDS FROM PRO HELVETIA, SWISS ARTS COUNCIL, AND IN PART BY PUBLIC FUNDS FROM THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE. MAIN SPONSORS INCLUDE LUMA FOUNDATION, FRIENDS OF THE SWISS INSTITUTE (FOSI), AND UBS. SWISS INSTITUTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES USM MODULAR FURNITURE AS SPONSOR OF *DAVID WEISS*, SWISS AS TRAVEL PARTNER, AND CHELSEA HOTELS AS HOSPITALITY PARTNER.