

RICHARD GRAY GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alex Katz
Present Tense
Sixty Years of Master Drawings

CHICAGO **February 25 – April 23, 2016**
Opening Reception: February 25, 6 – 8 pm
NEW YORK **February 29 – April 22, 2016**
Opening Reception: February 29, 6 – 8 pm

December 15, 2015 (Chicago) – Richard Gray Gallery is pleased to announce *Alex Katz: Present Tense*, a survey of sixty years of master drawings by Alex Katz. An illustrated catalogue with essay by Yale School of Art Dean **Robert Storr** accompanies the exhibition. Totalling seventy drawings from across Katz's ongoing career, the exhibition will occur simultaneously in Richard Gray Gallery's New York and Chicago spaces.

One of the most influential and widely known artists of the past half-century, Alex Katz remains, at age 88, a leading voice in American art. *Alex Katz: Present Tense* asserts the vital importance of drawing to the artist's practice. Bringing together portraits from a span of sixty years, the exhibition reveals drawing as a place where the artist's vision is explored, structured and recorded. A central facet of Katz's work, drawing serves as a tool of immediacy that enables him to capture the present moment in line, tone and surface. The experience of the drawings, for both the maker and the viewer, is one of intimacy. The paper captures the artist's hand in direct and unexpected ways.

As Robert Storr notes in his exhibition text, these drawings are full of "monumentality and forceful graphic anomalies," traits that show them as icons of Katz's method and style. Storr not only traces the development of Katz's drawing practice, but also sets him within a larger view of the European and American avant-garde in the modern period, showing Katz's perceptual affinities with artists like Paul Cézanne, Georges Seurat, and Piet Mondrian. Like these artists, Katz uses drawing as a means of structuring his images, of putting them together line by line as an experience, not a resemblance.

Alex Katz: Present Tense is the artist's fifth exhibition with Richard Gray Gallery and follows a year of large scale museum surveys at the High Museum of Atlanta, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, and the Colby College Museum of Art. Works by Alex Katz are held in public collections internationally, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Tate Gallery, London; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Art Institute of Chicago; and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. He lives and works in New York City.



Alex Katz, *Black Hat 2*, 2010, charcoal on paper, 15 x 22 1/2 inches

UPCOMING FROM RICHARD GRAY

Alex Katz: Present Tense, Chicago
February 25 – April 23, 2016
Alex Katz: Present Tense, New York
February 29 – April 22, 2016
The Art Show, New York
March 2 – 6, 2016
Art Basel Hong Kong
March 24 – 26, 2016
Magdalena Abakanowicz
May, 2016

Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago is open
Monday – Friday, 10am – 5:30pm
Saturday, 11am – 5pm

Richard Gray Gallery, New York is open
Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm
Saturday, by appointment

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