

PAUL KASMIN GALLERY

Saint Clair Cemin: SIX
September 6 – October 13, 2012
Paul Kasmin Gallery, 515 W 27th Street, New York

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 6, 6-8pm

AND

Saint Clair Cemin on Broadway
Artist's New York Public Art Debut Celebrated with Seven Outdoor Sculptures to Span 100 Blocks on Broadway between W. 57th Street Pedestrian Plaza and W. 157th Street

On View September 6 through mid-November 2012



Paul Kasmin Gallery presents *SIX*, Saint Clair Cemin's (b. 1951, Cruz Alta, Brazil) inaugural exhibition with the Gallery, on view at 515 W 27th Street from September 6 through October 13, 2012, alongside the artist's New York public art debut. Stringing together the rational, the unknown, the unconscious, and the dream, the Brazilian sculptor combines his signature pluralistic style with both concrete and abstract expressions in this exhibition of six new sculptural works, all made in 2012. Beyond the walls of the gallery, Paul Kasmin Gallery partners with the Broadway Mall Association (a New York non-profit organization working to beautify and maintain the malls of Broadway from 70th Street to 168th Street) to present *Saint Clair Cemin on Broadway*, an exhibition of seven additional sculptures by Cemin at outdoor locations from September 6 through mid-November 2012.

"Cemin's endgame modernism – a synthesis of old modern manners, breathing surreal new life into them – artfully condenses the absurdity in singularly perverse works," says art historian and critic, Donald Kuspit, writer of numerous reviews and catalog essays on Cemin.

SIX illustrates surrealist sculptural snapshots of Cemin's past, embodying his first experience of a profound sense of loss. Anchoring the gallery exhibition, a large piece titled *Maman* (the French word for "Mommy") serves as both a surreal portrait of the artist's mother and a philosophical reflection on the universal idea of mothers. The complex abstractionist works, *World as Flow* and *Greece*, seem to be one figure, acting out different stages of movement. *Greece* turns geometry inside out, as a four-armed and four-legged creature entangled in itself, illustrating the expansion of time, while *World as Flow* collapses in on itself to create a continuous, self-jailed structure.

Cemin creates surreal portraits of absurd characters, blurring the line between figuration and abstraction with *The Shadow*, *And Then (I Close My Eyes)*, and *Epimetheus*. *The Shadow*, a precarious dark form crafted from lacquered wood, appears to have just risen from chaos into light. The proud and shiny sculpture *Epimetheus* boasts false hubris as the Titan who was famously duped. The polished stainless steel Buddha-like figure, *And Then*, captures a moment of desperation, to be spiritually sound with no satisfaction.

Opening on September 6, the Broadway Mall Association in collaboration with Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, New York City Department of Transportation and the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District will present an additional series of seven Cemin sculptures at outdoor locations beginning just south of Columbus Circle at the 57th Street Pedestrian Plaza and spanning 100 blocks along Broadway. Cemin's monumental mirrored stainless steel sculpture, *Vortex*, will tower 40 feet high, embodying mankind's desire for transcendence, whisking up into the clouds all that it reflects on its surface. Along six additional Broadway malls, stretching to W. 157th Street, Cemin will present sculptures in a range of material. These sculptures include: *The Four*, 1997, a Corten steel sculpture that longs to be at once both geometric and organic; *In The Center*, 2002, an ominous archetypal creature existing at the core of our minds; *The Wind*, 2002, a large white marble sculpture which appears like putty, kneaded and manipulated by giant hands; *Aphrodite*, 2006, a copper depiction of the ancient goddess in primitive form, representing the female figure

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simply and hieratically; *O Pensador*, 2008, a figure who sits on the ground, lost in deep contemplation; and *Portrait of the Word Why*, 2008, a mirrored stainless steel portrait of one of the most mysterious words in the English language.

About Saint Clair Cemin:

Born and raised in the rural town of Cruz Alta, Brazil, Cemin went on to study at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. His work has been exhibited widely throughout the United States as well as abroad and is included in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France; Fisher Landau Center For Art, Long Island City, NY; Rooseum, Stockholm, Sweden; The Broad Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; and Inhotim, Minas Gerais, Brazil, among many others. Cemin currently lives in New York and has studios in Beijing and Red Hook, New York. Cemin will present a solo exhibition at the Centro Atlántico de Arte Contemporanea in Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Spain, opening October 26, 2012.

About the Broadway Mall Association:

The Broadway Mall Association (BMA) is a non-profit organization, working in partnership with community residents, businesses, other non-profit groups, and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to beautify and maintain the malls of Broadway from 70th Street to 168th Street. The malls are a 5.5 mile-long park that provides a welcome green space from the Upper West Side through Harlem to Washington Heights. Residents and visitors enjoy plantings and public art installations, often from the perspective of the Broadway mall benches. Please see: www.broadwaymall.org.

Art on the Malls is the Broadway Mall Association's program to enliven the Broadway Malls with contemporary art, launched in 2004 with the major exhibition *Tom Otterness on Broadway*. Since then, the Broadway Mall Association has exhibited many artists on the malls, including Boaz Vaadia, Carole Eisner, Manolo Valdés and Peter Woytuk.

The City of New York's Department of Parks & Recreation's Art in the Parks program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, collaborations with arts organizations and artists have produced hundreds of public art projects in New York City parks. Please see: www.nyc.gov/parks/art.

A fully illustrated catalog with text by Adrian Dannatt will accompany *SIX* and the Broadway Mall Association presentation.

Image Credit: Saint Clair Cemin, *Vortex*, (In-situ rendering on Broadway between 57th and 58th Streets, NYC), 2008, stainless steel, 39' 4" x 10' 2" x 10' 2", Image courtesy Paul Kasmin Gallery



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