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### "Hypothesis for an Exhibition" at Dominique Lévy, New York

July 24-2014

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Dominique Lévy gallery presents a collaborative artists' project inspired by the work of Italian Conceptualist Giulio Paolini. Titled "Hypothesis for an Exhibition" and curated by Begum Yasar, the project is comprised of two components: The first is an exhibition of work by Paolini and a dozen New York artists and collectives paying tribute to his ideas. The second component is a publication designed by Studio Manuel Raeder. In addition to Paolini, participating artists include Richard Aldrich, Harold Ancart, Sebastian Black, Kerstin Brätsch, Guyton\Walker, KAYA, Charles Mayton, Seth Price, Josh Smith, R.H. Quaytman, Antek Walczak, and Viola Yeşiltaç.

On view through 16 August, "Hypothesis for an Exhibition" coincides with the artist's retrospective Giulio Paolini: "To Be or Not to Be", on view at the Whitechapel Gallery in London.

"Hypothesis for an Exhibition" explores parallels in thought and aesthetic strategies between Paolini's work, especially of the 1960s and the '70s, and the work of a younger generation of artists based in New York City today. The underlying principle of the project is self-reflexivity, evident in the way works on view investigate the relationship between language and the work of art, as well as the language of the work of art itself.

"Hypothesis" highlights Paolini's visionary status in historical context and reveals various ways in which his strategies have evolved in the art of others, taking on additional layers with advancements in technology and methods of production and distribution of art since Paolini's first forays into these questions in the 1960s. The gallery's publication, edited by Begum Yasar and also titled "Hypothesis for an Exhibition," features an introduction by the renowned curator, art historian and critic Germano Celant, and contributions by the participating artists Sebastian Black, Kerstin Brätsch (with Boško Blagojević), Seth Price, and Antek Walczak, as well as a prose poem by Kari Rittenbach and a critical essay by Begum Yasar, alongside a selection of excerpts from the writings of Giulio Paolini.

The title "Hypothesis for an Exhibition" is a reference to Paolini's 1963 work "Ipotesi per una mostra" (Hypothesis for an Exhibition), which was to have been Paolini's first exhibition but remained unrealized until his 2003 retrospective at the Fondazione Prada in Milan, curated by Germano Celant. The word hypothesis can be defined as a proposition made on the grounds of limited evidence, as a basis for reasoning, without the assumption of its truth, as a starting point for further investigation. The work of art—as well as the exhibition as a work of art—is not limited to the physical space it occupies, but is rather conceived, in Paolini's words, as "an expanding module," with the potential for generating further questions and possibilities.

This project at Dominique Lévy is indebted to Paolini, who has occupied a singular artistic position since the 1960 inception of his very first work: *Disegno geometrico* (Geometric Drawing) was a small canvas depicting only the perspectival squaring of the picture plane, executed in ink and tempera. Its raison d'être was to make the space of representation visible rather than carrying out the act of representation. According to Paolini, this first and only painted work—a self-reflexive surrogate for a painting—embodies the motivation and the justification for all of his subsequent works to the present day. What drives Paolini's work is a phenomenological inquiry into the becoming of art, without any assumptions regarding the essence of the work of art. The self-reflexive work of art meditates on and poses questions about the devices and strategies, formulations and operations that have gone into its creation and constitution. The exhibition at Dominique Lévy anchors itself in this paradigm of self-reflexivity, a notion that unites the approaches of all the artists in "Hypothesis for an Exhibition."

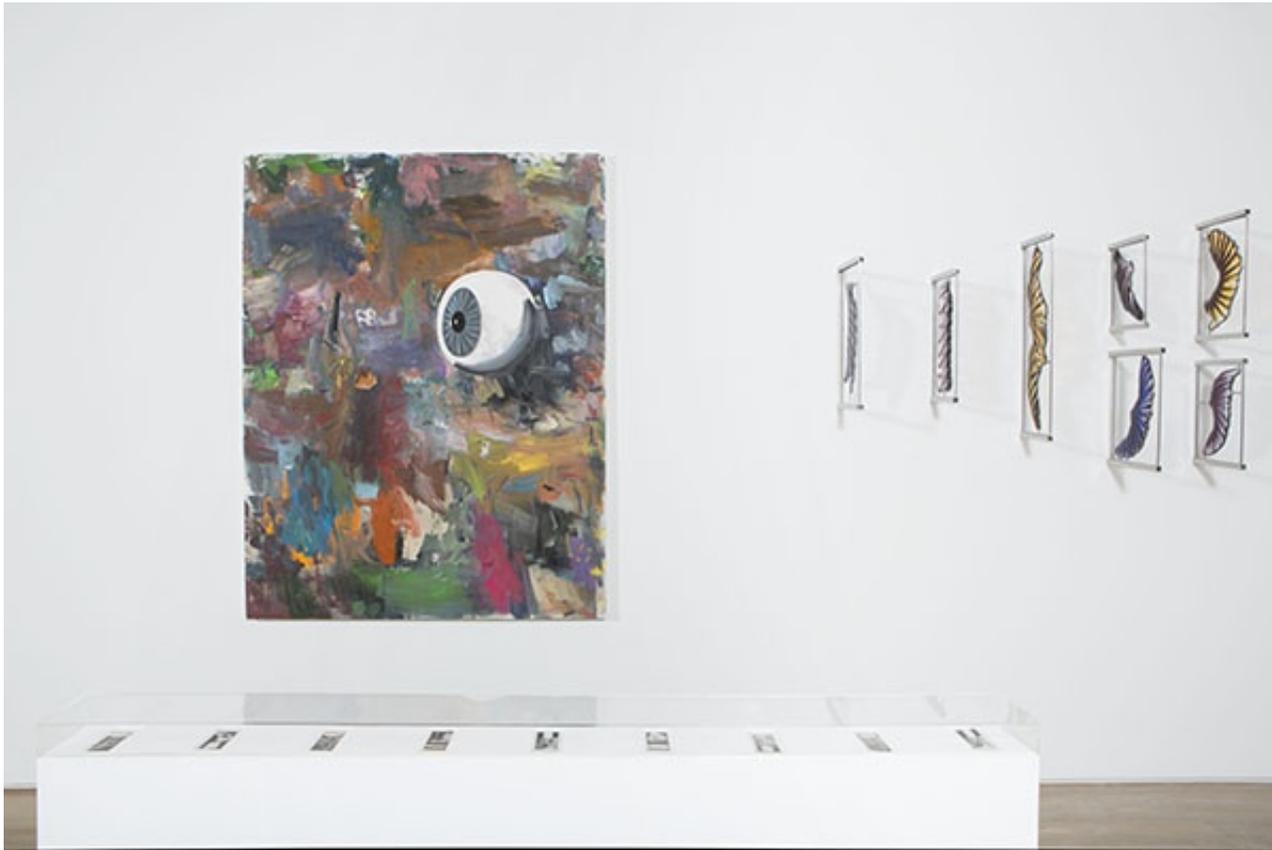
[at Dominique Lévy, New York](#)

until 16 August 2014













"Hypothesis for an Exhibition" installation views at Dominique Lévy, New York, 2014  
Courtesy: Dominique Lévy, New York