

LÉVY GORVY

LÉVY GORVY TO PRESENT AN EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO THE
HUMAN BODY AS SUBJECT AND OBJECT
IN CONTEMPORARY ART

META VISCERAL

Opening 1 June 2021

22 Old Bond Street
London



CAROL RAMA. *Senza titolo*, 1966. Taxidermy eyes, ink, and vinyl glue on paper, Framed Dimensions: 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 17 $\frac{1}{16}$ inches (35 x 45 cm). © Archivio Carol Rama, Torino

London—Beginning 1 June, Lévy Gorvy will present *META VISCERAL*, a curated group exhibition focused upon contemporary explorations of the human body as both an object burdened with historical meaning and a subject of direct experience to be shared. Fragmented, transformed, and reconstituted by artists throughout the 20th century and into 21st, the human body remains an essential theme across mediums.

A highlight of the exhibition is *Anthropométrie sans titre (ANT 162)* (1960) a major painting from **Yves Klein**'s most renowned series. Unlike traditional figurative painting, in which a model is the passive subject of depiction through an act of representation, Klein's *Anthropométries* were created through active engagement: he applied his proprietary International Klein Blue (IKB) pigment to a model, who then pressed her body onto the canvas, leaving a direct impression of her physical form. The resulting painting is both sensuous and enigmatic, existing as a permanent trace of ephemeral bodily presence. Resonant with the *Anthropométries*, **David Hammons** *Body Prints* of the 1970s saw the artist create ethereal impressions using grease and pigment applied directly to the body. Fundamental to the development of Hammons's unique artistic vocabulary, the *Body Prints* establish composite corporeal images that capture visages and represent his experience as a Black man and an artist. These themes are also fundamental to the work of **Jeff Sonhouse**, who explores identity and sartorial presentation through a distinctive painted style.

Bruce Nauman has used his own body as raw material since the 1960s. To create *Hand Pair* (1996), the artist cast his left and right hands to the wrist, welding the resulting bronzes together so that they appear to reach in opposite directions. Short-circuiting conventional bodily gestures through strategies of conjunction and fragmentation, *Hand Pair* is a key work in Nauman's conceptual explorations of perception and experience. Since the 1980s, **Thomas Schütte** has turned to figuration, probing its expressive and allegorical potential, as seen in sculptures such as *Basler Mask (No. 11)* (2014). Embracing a diverse range of media and forms and using the human body to query our relationships with nature, **Giuseppe Penone** creates hybrid sculptural and mixed media works that explore his understanding of skin as "a boundary, a border or dividing, the last point to be able to add, subtract, divide, multiple, cancel everything around us, the last point, container and contained." Performance artist **Miles Greenberg** is inspired by scientific and spiritual interpretations of the body. His video projection *PNEUMOTHERAPY (II)* (2020) documents a seven-hour live performance, enacted as a ritualistic ode to the respiratory system.

The psychologically resonant art of **Louise Bourgeois** plays a defining role in *META VISCERAL*, which includes a selection of sculptural works and *Lullaby* (2006), a series of 25 phallic abstractions screen-printed onto a background resembling that of music paper. *Breasts and Blade* (conceived 1991) extends Bourgeois' use of anatomical fragments to evoke emotional states, with multiple breasts emerging from within the wavelike folds and protuberances of its corporeal form. **Carol Rama** stages psychosexual dramas in the watercolor and bricolage works on view, exulting in female anatomy in ways that are bold and abject. Like Rama, **Sarah Lucas** employs unconventional materials and avant-garde strategies to explore issues of female sexuality in the 21st century. Her *Nude No. 1* (1999) and *Sheela na gig* (2012), are two central works featured in the exhibition that use bodily surrogates to confront objectification and channel a fiercely charged feminism.

Exhibition design for *META VISCERAL* was created in collaboration with **Studioilse, London**.

About Lévy Gorvy

Lévy Gorvy cultivates a program devoted to innovation and connoisseurship in the fields of postwar and contemporary art. Founded by Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy, Lévy Gorvy maintains gallery spaces at 909 Madison Avenue in New York, in Mayfair, London, in the Marais, Paris, and in Central, Hong Kong. The gallery fosters continued dedication to the living artists and artists' estates that it represents and offers a robust program of exhibitions and multidisciplinary events. The gallery also produces ongoing art-historical

research and original scholarship, publishing exhibition catalogues, monographs, and other key publications.

909 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021, +1 212 772 2004

22 Old Bond Street, London W1S 4PY, +44 203 696 5910

4 Passage Sainte-Avoye, 75003 Paris, +33 1 58 80 82 40

Ground Floor, 2 Ice House Street, Central, Hong Kong, +852 2613 9568

www.levygorvy.com | [@levygorvy](https://www.instagram.com/levygorvy)

Press Contacts

Zenaide d'Albufera, Reiber PR, zenaide@reiberpr.com

Marta de Movellan, Lévy Gorvy, marta@levygorvy.com