

For Immediate Release

Richard Woods: Work Tables

June 23 – August 19, 2016

Opening reception Thursday, June 23, 6:00-8:00pm



Work Tables installation sketch

New York, NY [June 2, 2016] — Friedman Benda is pleased to present *Work Tables*, a new exhibition by British artist Richard Woods.

Woods is best known for his spirited woodblock-printed furniture and installations that play with proportions and turn *trompe l'oeil* on its head. Flattening three-dimensions into two, his array of pattern draws from traditional building materials such as woodgrain, brick, and stone, which he scales and repeats in bold graphics on simple and familiar forms. The exaggerated exuberance of Woods' patterns renders the host structures unrecognizable as the quotidian becomes unbridled.

For *Work Tables*, 20 woodblock tabletops are installed in the gallery's project space side by side, forming a storyboard as the viewer navigates through the field of color and composition. The magnified proportions and iteration of Woods' motifs that are central to his design practice are apparent, but in a departure from his previous work, Woods adds stenciled silhouettes that suggest a narrative: a cat jumps on the table; the workman forgets his saw; picnic cutlery is left scattered.

With *Work Tables*, influences of the English countryside are contrasted against industrial props, pointing with humor and irreverence to the ways in which we interact with surfaces—real and imagined—at work, in leisure and in fantasy. And, in a nod to the context of the exhibition, Woods invites the viewer into the conversation; every pattern can become a table, a box, or a façade of a house.

About the artist

Richard Woods was born in Chester, England and received a Masters degree from the Slade School of Fine Art in 1990. His process, from conception to creation, involves elements of design, architecture, and art. He often devises entire spaces that incorporate his bold prints onto every surface. His public and private commissions can be seen on buildings around the world, in London, UK; New York, NY; Antwerp, Belgium; Songdo, South Korea; Milton Keynes, UK; and Woodstock, NY. Richard Woods' work is in the permanent collections of the British Museum, London, UK; the Residence du Park, Turin, Italy; the Unilever Collection, London, UK, among others.

About Friedman Benda

Friedman Benda is a gallery dedicated to presenting established and emerging designers who create historically significant work and are at the forefront of their practice. Founded in 2007, the gallery's exhibitions and publications have played a vital role in the development of the contemporary design market and education, and take a comprehensive approach to work that intersects the fields of design, craft and art. Friedman Benda represents an international roster of designers spanning five continents and multiple generations.

For further information visit www.friedmanbenda.com

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