

# KOHN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 18, 2016

## ORI GERSHT

Floating World

**Opening Reception: July 9, 2016 6-8pm**  
Exhibition on view through September 2, 2016



*Kublai Khan had noticed that Marco Polo's cities resembled one another, as if the passage from one to another involved not a journey but a change of elements. Now, from each city Marco described to him, the Great Kahn's mind set out on its own, and after dismantling the city piece by piece, he reconstructed it in other ways, substituting components, shifting them, inverting them.*

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (1972)

**Los Angeles, California** – This July, Kohn Gallery will present its first solo exhibition with London-based artist Ori Gersht. The exhibition will feature the artist's latest body of work, *Floating World*, a series of photographs that capture water reflections of ancient gardens in

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Buddhist Zen temples in Kyoto, Japan. On view in the adjacent galleries will be prints and a triptych video installation from the 2014 series, *On Reflection*.

The exhibition marks the United States debut of the *Floating World* series, which the artist began in 2015. In the work, Gersht seeks to reflect the natural elements and spiritual character of Kyoto's Zen gardens, which are both real and metaphysical places. By focusing his camera on water reflections and later in post-production inverting his photographs and merging them with each other, Gersht creates new spaces that hover between material and virtual realities.

The artist has gained international recognition for his photographic and film works that explore and expose a physical reality within his images that is invisible to the naked eye. In this body of work he goes further, examining how this invisible space can bend and twist to create another view. The viewer becomes lost in the complexities of the reflection and in discerning between what is up or down, reflection or object. Gersht collapses the image and in turn fuses the virtual and material worlds. The separation between the landscape and its reflection disappears in the new series allowing the viewer to engage with this new holistic space.

On view in the adjacent galleries will be prints from Gersht's 2014 series *On Reflection*, as well as a viewing room for the three-channel film from the same series. Gersht meticulously recreated with silk flowers an exact replica of Flemish painter Jan Brueghel's floral paintings from 1606, now in Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum. For Gersht, Brueghel's painting and the city of Vienna embrace a sense of exuberant decadence and imperialism – a metaphor he connects to our own time. The floral replica is then situated in front of tempered mirrored glass that Gersht blows apart using electrical charges. The mirror, which by nature raises the question of what is real and what is perceived as real, is a key element in this body of work.

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Gersht captures the destructive event with two high-definition digital cameras placed side by side to capture simultaneously different views of the same event; one focused on the shattering glass and the other on the reflection in the mirror. The mirror reflects what appears to be a Jan Brueghel painting. But what is reality: is it the object, the reflection, or the image captured by the photographic lens? Gersht asks the question: is the camera the medium that records, or that creates reality? “Like the Kyoto gardens, the still life series represents my interest in using reflections and the camera lens to present new or alternate realities. As David Chandler puts it, ‘a dialectic of presence and absence’. They are both, to use Roland Barthes’s words, ‘here-now’ and ‘there-then,’ ” explains Gersht.

## About Ori Gersht

Ori Gersht was born in Israel in 1967. In 1988, he moved to London, where he received his bachelor’s degree in photography, film and video at the University of Westminster, London and his master’s degree in photography from the Royal College of Art, London. Gersht exhibited solo shows at Tate Britain, London; Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Tel Aviv Museum of Art; Yale Centre for British Art, New Haven, CT; and The Jewish Museum, New York, NY. Gersht’s work is included in numerous private and public collections around the world, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; and Israel Museum, Jerusalem. In 2015 Gersht was shortlisted for the prestigious Prix Pictet. He currently lives and works in London.

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Since its establishment in 1985 by Michael Kohn, Kohn Gallery has presented historically significant exhibitions in Los Angeles alongside exciting contemporary exhibitions, creating meaningful contexts to establish links to the greater art historical continuum. Significant exhibitions include Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup Boxes in December 1986, which opened just weeks before the artist's untimely death; She: Works by Richard Prince and Wallace Berman which brought together—for the first time—two generations of leading artists from different coasts; Bruce Conner: Work from the 1970s, which inspired the artist's first solo retrospective in Europe at the Kunsthalle Wien and Kunsthalle Zurich (2010). Exhibitions of important New York-based artists have included new works by Christopher Wool, Richard Tuttle, Mark Tansey, Kenny Scharf, and Keith Haring. Kohn Gallery represents important West Coast artists with long careers and rich histories such as Larry Bell, Joe Goode and Lita Albuquerque, as well as the Estates of Bruce Conner, Wallace Berman, John Altoon and Charles Brittin. Finally, Kohn Gallery boasts an exciting roster of emerging and mid-career artists including Ryan McGinness, Rosa Loy, Dennis Hollingsworth, Mark Ryden, Tom LaDuke and Troika. Visit [kohngallery.com](http://kohngallery.com) for the latest information on upcoming exhibitions.

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**Join the “Ori Gersht: Floating World” conversation on social media by mentioning @KOHNGallery and using the #FloatingWorld #KohnGallery hashtags when posting.**

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