

# LUHRING AUGUSTINE

# STEPHEN FRIEDMAN GALLERY

## **Tom Friedman: *Looking Up***

Park Avenue at East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street

January – September 2016



Image © The Contemporary Austin; Photograph by Brian Fitzsimmons, 2015

Luhring Augustine, New York; Stephen Friedman Gallery, London; NYC Parks; and the Fund for Park Avenue are pleased to present *Looking Up*, a 33.3-foot-tall stainless steel sculpture by the American artist Tom Friedman.

Friedman makes extraordinary work that explores ideas of perception, logic, and possibility. His often painstakingly rendered sculptures and works on paper inhabit the grey areas between the ordinary and the monstrous, the infinitesimal and the infinite, the rational and the uncanny. His work can be deceptive, its handmade intricacy masked by a seemingly mass-produced or prefabricated appearance. Friedman's deadpan presentation implies content and form are seamless; expectations are overturned as the viewer slowly perceives that chasm between illusion and reality.

*Looking Up* is by far the most ambitious sculpture from Friedman's ongoing body of work involving the use of crushed aluminum foil roasting-pans to create figures, which, through a process of molding and lost wax casting, retain the original imprint of the baking tins. A charming yet magnificent piece, the quasi-human figure gazes up to the heavens, inviting others to stand at its base and do the same. This will be the second example of the edition; the first is permanently installed at the Laguna Gloria Campus of The Contemporary Austin in Texas.

Friedman's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Fondazione Prada, Milan; Magasin III Museum and Foundation, Stockholm; South London Gallery; Tel Aviv Museum of Art; and numerous other institutions. His work is included in prestigious collections such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Brown University, Providence, RI; Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH; Art Institute of Chicago; St. Louis Art Museum, among several others.

The installation is presented under the auspices of The Fund for Park Avenue Sculpture Committee and NYC Parks, who work together to present a variety of exhibitions by renowned artists on this unique venue. The Fund for Park Avenue relies on community support to plant, light and maintain the trees and flowers on the Park Avenue Malls.

NYC Parks' Art in the Parks Program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art projects throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, collaborations with arts organizations and artists have produced hundreds of public art projects in New York City parks. [www.nyc.gov/parks/art](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/art).

For further information about *Looking Up*, please contact Lauren Wittels at 212.206.9100 or via email at [lauren@luhringaugustine.com](mailto:lauren@luhringaugustine.com). For press requests, please contact Caroline Burghardt at 718.386.2745 or via email at [caroline@luhringaugustine.com](mailto:caroline@luhringaugustine.com)

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