**MADDOX GALLERY PRESENTS ‘*BLAH, BLAH, BLAH’* BY MEL BOCHNER**

19th December 2019 – 15th January 2020

Maddox Gallery Gstaad - Promenade 7, 3780, Gstaad, Switzerland

Maddox Gallery is delighted to present ‘BLAH, BLAH, BLAH’, an exhibition of text-based paintings by American Conceptual artist, Mel Bochner. The exhibition opens at the gallery’s Alpine outpost in Gstaad, Switzerland, on 19th December and will be the first time Bochner’s work has been presented in Switzerland in over a decade.

‘Blah, Blah, Blah’ is a presentation of works from Bochner’s popular thesaurus painting series, which consists of lists of synonyms displayed in rainbow-coloured palettes, often featuring a single word repeated in painterly capital letters as seen in his pioneering piece Blah, Blah, Blah (2008), after which the exhibition is named.

Throughout 2019, the team at Maddox Gallery have worked directly with Mel Bochner and his studio to curate a show of 24 quintessential paintings of which 14 will be unveiled at Maddox Gallery’s Gstaad for the first time.

The exhibition celebrates the beauty of text in art and its aesthetic importance. Each piece carries Bochner’s sardonic, humourous and nostalgic signature and offers a depth of meaning that goes far beyond appearance. ‘Blah, Blah, Blah’ offers the viewer a visual exploration of the interplay between language and image and the power of words in modern society. Bochner aims to confuse the viewer by challenging them with philosophical puzzles and rhetorical questions.

‘Blah, Blah, Blah’ will move to Maddox Gallery’s flagship in Mayfair, London, in the New Year where it will open to the public on 30th January 2020.

**About Mel Bochner**

Mel Bochner is an American Conceptual Artist and currently lives in New York. He received his BFA and honorary Doctor of Fine Arts in 2005 from the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University and is recognised as one of the leading figures in the development of Conceptual art in New York in the 1960s and 1970s. Emerging at a time when painting was increasingly discussed as outmoded, Bochner became part of a new generation of artists which also included Eva Hesse, Donald Judd, and Robert Smithson - artists, whom, like Bochner were looking at ways of breaking with

Abstract Expressionism and traditional compositional devices. His pioneering introduction of the use of language in the visual, led Harvard University art historian Benjamin Buchloh to describe his 1966 Working Drawings as ‘probably the first truly conceptual exhibition’.

Bochner came of age during the second half of the 1960s, a moment of radical change, both in society at large as well as in art. While painting slowly lost its preeminent position in modern art, language moved from talking about art to becoming part of art itself. Bochner has consistently probed the conventions of both painting and of language, the way we construct and understand them, and the way they relate to one another to make us more attentive to the unspoken codes that underpin our engagement with the world.

**About Maddox Gallery**

Maddox Gallery is fast emerging as one of the most stylish young international contemporary art destinations in Europe. Dedicated to supporting and showcasing the work of blue-chip, established and emerging artists from across the globe, in under five years the galleries have built a reputation for exhibiting exclusive, cutting-edge work from the likes of David Yarrow, The Connor Brothers, Damien Hirst, Lauren Baker, Bradley Theodore, Coco Dávez, RETNA, Banksy, Harland Miller, Haris Nukem, Ben Eine, and Massimo Agostinelli to name a few.

Established in 2015, the beautiful 3750 square foot Victorian townhouse located on Maddox Street in the heart of Mayfair, has become a cultural hub for collectors, buyers, artists and art-lovers. Two more West London-based galleries have since opened, with one situated in Westbourne Grove and the other in Shepherd Market.

In December 2017, the Maddox Gallery group opened its first international gallery in the prestigious alpine ski resort of Gstaad, Switzerland. Maddox Gallery Los Angeles is the newest gallery location and first in the United States, having opened its doors in September 2018.

**MADDOXGALLERY.COM EXHIBITION DATES**

19th December 2019 – 15th January 2020

Maddox Gallery, Promenade 7, 3780, Gstaad, Switzerland

**@maddoxgallery**

**PRESS INFORMATION**

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