

# FIVE ELEVEN

## Alexis Dahan: Intrusion

September 10 - November 7th, 2015

Five Eleven Gallery  
511 West 27th St  
New York NY 10001

Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm

### Opening Reception: Thursday, September 10, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

FIVE ELEVEN presents Intrusion, a solo exhibition of new works by Alexis Dahan. The term "Intrusion" describes a public intervention and a set of sculptures created by Dahan expressly for this exhibition. Intrusion acts as part of the artist's continued exploration of visible and semiotic deformations, using the urban landscape as both a source of inspiration and a destination for his work.

The "Intrusion" intervention is hidden and can only be experienced through its photographic and sculptural documentation laid out on the gallery walls. Paris in New York and New York à Paris are two moments of the same intervention performed by Dahan, once in New York, once in his native Paris. For New York à Paris, Dahan extracted a cobblestone from the pavement at an unidentified location in SoHo. After cleaning, labelling and photographing the cobblestone, Dahan transported it to Paris. There he extracted a Parisian cobblestone of similar proportion. In the hollow remaining, Dahan inserted the cobblestone from SoHo and sealed it with cement. To complete Paris in New York Dahan then transported the Parisian cobblestone to New York, labelled, photographed and placed it in the groove where the New York cobblestone once laid. With this simple gesture, Dahan effectively grafts two cities, exchanging microelements of their infrastructures: a piece of New York has become part of Paris and vice versa.

In the gallery, Dahan has created an imaginary minimal living room transforming decommissioned New York City payphones into sculptures, acting as both furniture and ornament. Three sculptures hang on the wall like paintings while the others mimic the shape of a couch, chairs, coffee table and a flowerpot. Obsolete urban objects that naturally belong to the public realm are transported into the private domain and activated for the domestic, in function and decoration.

Finally, a photograph of a frozen water puddle which Dahan had colored with ultramarine blue echoes his past public interventions and reasserts the artist's will of modifying the public environment through simple gestures.

Alexis Dahan was born in 1982 in Paris, France. After studying literature and philosophy in Paris, Dahan received his M.A. in Journalism at New York University. Dahan's first exhibition at Half Gallery in December 2012, met with critical acclaim and was quickly followed by a solo show at Rook & Raven Gallery, London in May 2013. In November 2013, Dahan's "We serve selected texts", a not-for-profit interactive installation that distributed philosophy texts to bystanders, was invited by the DIA Art Foundation to operate in front of their Chelsea headquarters. In 2014 the Art Production Fund commissioned Dahan's "If the game is the art, is chance the artist?" in Las Vegas and earlier this year, the Fire Department of New York approved Dahan's Alarm Amann, an intervention consisting of repainting an old fire alarm box at the corner of Rivington and Bowery with red fluorescent pigments, to remain on long term view.

**DISCUSSION PANEL:** On public art and the role of the artist in transforming the urban fabric. Artist Alexis Dahan with art historian Ann Fensterstock [of "Art on the Block" repute] and curator Manon Slome of No Longer Empty. **Monday, September 21st, 7pm**

**FIVE ELEVEN** is an intimate storefront space in the heart of the Chelsea Gallery district dedicated to presenting unique, non-traditional and immersive contemporary art installations in collaboration with curators, artists, galleries and arts organizations.

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