



## Charles Ray sculpture, 1997-2014 /anglais

*Bernhard Mendes*

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### Charles Ray sculpture, 1997-2014 /anglais Bernhard Mendes

Charles Ray (born 1953) is one of America's most outstanding contemporary sculptors. Like Jeff Koons and Katharina Fritsch, he has developed a new kind of plastic figuration, as can be seen in his white-painted steel sculpture "Boy with Frog" (2009), whose recent installation on the Punta della Dogana in Venice drew a great deal of critical and popular attention. Despite its apparent naturalism, Ray's oversized figure of a nude boy frolicking animatedly, even rabidly, with the animal world, verges upon the classical. "Horse and Rider," a self-portrait of the artist on horseback (2014), likewise revives the traditional images of the horseback rider and the hero of the American West, but in a way that is decidedly anti-heroic. This volume offers a comprehensive monograph on Ray's sculptural works of recent years.

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Présentation de l'éditeur

Charles Ray (\* 1953 in Chicago) zählt zu den herausragenden Skulpteuren der Gegenwart. Wie Jeff Koons und Katharina Fritsch arbeitet er an einer neuen plastischen Figuration, zu sehen etwa in der weiß bemalten Stahlskulptur *Boy with Frog* (2009). Ihre Präsenz an der Punta della Dogana in Venedig sorgte bis vor Kurzem für große Aufmerksamkeit. Der nackte Junge in Übergröße, der vital bis rabiart mit der Tierwelt umgeht, ist bei allem Naturalismus von einer Typisierung ins Klassizistische geprägt. Stupend in der Ausführung, hat die Skulptur, der man ihre enorme Schwere überhaupt nicht ansieht, etwas Zeitloses an sich; viele Leute denken bei ihrem Anblick wohl nicht an Gegenwartskunst. Die Publikation gibt einen Überblick zu Rays Skulpturen, die seit 1997 in langjährigen Arbeitsprozessen entstanden sind, darunter neue und teilweise erstmals veröffentlichte Werke.

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