

ACHIM DUCHOW

Opening 29 September, 6.30 to 9 p.m.
30 September to 29 October 2016

Only very few artists confront the viewer with such a multifaceted access to art as Achim Duchow (1948–1993). The artist's remarkable pluralism of styles and his original, often sardonically witty, socio-critical interpretation of current events and contemporary standards and values characterise the work of Duchow, a close friend and companion of Sigmar Polke in the 1970s.

After the Institute of Art History at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf began the art historical reappraisal of Achim Duchow's oeuvre last year, Setareh Gallery – as agent of Achim Duchow's estate – is now pleased to be presenting the first solo exhibition of the artist after a long time.

In the 1970s, Duchow was part of the legendary Gaspelshof artists' community in Willich, where he worked with Katharina Sieverding, Astrid Heibach, Klaus Mettig, Memphis Schulze, Sigmar Polke and many others. This is where prevalent artistic stereotypes and established views of the role of the artist were renounced and bourgeois conformism repudiated. Together with Sigmar Polke, Achim Duchow challenged the cult of the artist as genius as well as the originality of an artwork by exhibiting collective works and negating the concept of authorship.

Achim Duchow's oeuvre was so diverse and varied that his contemporaries were often at a loss to pigeonhole him in terms of style. Despite his proximity to Polke and to European pop art, Duchow went his own way, working in various media and in a multitude of styles. On his countless trips abroad and during his three-year stay in Japan (1978–1981), Duchow reveals himself a truly cosmopolitan artist, well-versed in reflecting what is both foreign and familiar in a culture – and, ultimately, holding up the mirror to it.

Characterised by irony and a delicate zeitgeist, Achim Duchow's works are as topical today as ever. His intelligent pictorial strategies, such as quotations and adaptations as well as alienation and intertextuality, allow him to critique society and politics in a subtle and meaningful way. Significantly, Duchow finds his subjects in everyday life and in the fields of advertising and pop culture, thus creating art that is semantically meaningful. In this manner, Duchow is able to maintain the tension between seriousness and humour, illustrating the relevance of his topics up to the present day.

ACHIM DUCHOW

(*1948 Otterndorf, Niederelbe, DE - 1993 Düsseldorf, DE)

EDUCATION

1971-78 Studies at the HdK Hamburg with Klaus Peter Brehmer and Sigmar Polke

SOLO SHOWS (selection)

- 2016 ACHIM DUCHOW, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2014 Japan 8-9-3 Achim Duchow - In search of Japan, Weltkunstzimmer, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2009 Achim Duchow. 1948-1993, Galerie Kunstraum 21, Cologne, DE
- 2001 Achim Duchow, Galerie Erhard Klein, Bad Münstereifel, DE
- 1993 Kunst für Arme, Kunstverein Lippstadt, DE
- 1992 Achim Duchow - DG HYP, Hamburg, DE
- 1990 Möchtest Du noch mal arm sein, NAKV Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, DE
- 1982 Neue Bilder und Zeichnungen, Galerie Erhard Klein, Bonn, DE
- 1977 Projektionen, Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel, DE
- 1976 Viele Grüße aus Südamerika! Euer Martin, Galerie Erhard Klein, Bonn, DE
- 1975 Achim Duchow, Galerie Erhard Klein, Bonn, DE
- 1974 Tonbildschau: Achim Duchow. C'est la vie ma chérie..., Oppenheim Studio, Cologne, DE

GROUP SHOWS (selection)

- 2016 Emeka Ogboh – Song of the Germans/Gast der Sammlungspräsentation Gebrochen Deutsch, Kunsthalle Kiel, DE
I like Fortschritt, Kunst Museum Mülheim an der Ruhr, DE
- 2015 Travelling the World - Art from Germany, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, KOR
- 2014 The Paths of German Art from 1949 to the present - Moscow museum of modern art - MMOMA, Moscow, RUS
- 2013 Inselführer, Kunstwerk Nippes, Cologne, DE
Weltreise, ZKM, Museum für Neue Kunst, Karlsruhe, DE
- 2012 Knapp daneben ist auch vorbei, Sammlung PHILARA, Düsseldorf, DE
Lichtsensibel, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau, CH
- 2011 Sammlung Peter Zimmer - Hans Peter Zimmer Foundation, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2010 55 Jahre Kunst in Düsseldorf, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, DE
Mach' keine Oper, Museum der Stadt Ratingen, DE
- 2009 Sigmar Polke. Wir Kleinbürger! Zeitgenossen und Zeitgenossinnen, Kunsthalle Hamburg, DE
- 2002 Zurück zum Beton, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, DE
- 1999 Bad - bad, that is a good excuse, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, DE
- 1997 Melancholie und Eros in der Kunst der Gegenwart, Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, DE
- 1993 MedienMafia präsentiert: Fremd und Anders?, Düsseldorf, DE
- 1992 documenta 9, Kassel, DE
- 1991 Goethe Institut Osaka /Oxy Galerie, Osaka, JPN
Les Couleurs de L'argent; Musée de la Poste, Paris, FR
- 1987 MedienMafia präsentiert, Düsseldorf Hafen, DE
- 1981 Highlights. Rückblick Oppenheim Studio Köln, Städtisches Kunstmuseum Bonn, DE
Monbukagakusho Scholarship Exhibition, Maki Gallery, Tokyo, JPN
- 1979 Photography as Art – Art as Photography III, Institute of Contemporary Art, London, UK
- 1977 Sigmar Polke: Fotos / Achim Duchow: Projektionen, Kasseler Kunstverein, DE
- 1976 Wir Kleinbürger – Zeitgenossen und Zeitgenossinnen. Dias, Projektionen, Zeichnungen, Landkarten (S. Polke, K. Steffen, A. Duchow, A. Haibach), Galerie Tony Gerber, Bern, CH
- 1975 Sigmar Polke, Achim Duchow : mu nieltnam netorruprup, Kunsthalle zu Kiel, DE
- 1973 Original + Faelschung, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, DE