

Hans Hartung

In An Alternate Reality

November 19 - February 10, 2018

Opening reception November 19, 12-3 pm

"It is this desire that spurs me on: the constant passion to leave the traces of my gestures on the canvas or on the paper." – Hans Hartung

Setareh Gallery has the pleasure of presenting extraordinary works by Hans Hartung, the pioneer of gestural painting, for the third time in its gallery premises. In his abstract works extending over large parts of the twentieth century, the artist succeeded in creating another reality – another kind of reality that longs to be both experienced and pursued.

Bundles of delicate black lines on an almost transparent canvas tinted in light blue, vibrant shimmering tangles of unprompted colour fields, lines like fine grids, colossal bars and deep scratches on extensive canvases: Hartung produced dynamic pictorial worlds that appear reduced and almost calligraphic at the same time.

Hans Hartung is the most prominent representative of the abstract expressionism and was a relentless artistic experimenter. Exploring and playing with the possibilities of painting, he not only used small and large brushes but also feather dusters, paint rollers and scrapers as well as converted vacuum cleaners and spray cans, all of which provided him with a newly found freedom in his mature artistic output.

Hartung developed an entirely innovative, gestural form of abstraction. Characteristic of this new abstract style is a subjectivity that was hitherto unknown and greatly influenced the *École de Paris* and later international art. For his works on canvas, he first produced preliminary sketches that formed the basis for his paintings full of spontaneous and expressive force. It was only from the 1960s onwards that Hartung fully liberated himself from his former mode of rigid pictorial composition. This new approach had a further reason, however, as he had been hard-pressed for money until shortly prior to the end of World War II, and painting in oil was expensive.

The Leipzig-born artist had taken courses in the method and materials of artistic work under Kurt Wehler and Max Doerner, both classic masters in this field, in Dresden and Munich (1925–29). His curiosity led him to Paris, where he permanently moved to with his wife Anna-Eva Bergmann following a traumatic interrogation by the Gestapo in 1935. He joined the French Foreign Legion in 1939 and was a member of the troops in North Africa until 1944. That same year, he lost his right leg during the siege of Belfort. He took up painting again in 1945 after a six-year interruption. In the following year and on account of his bravery, he was awarded French citizenship and the Legion of Honour.

Hans Hartung was the prototypical European painter. He established a career after the war as one of the most important international artists of post-war modernity. He was represented at every documenta from 1955 to 1964, and received the Grand International Prize for Painting at the Biennale of Venice in 1960.

After moving to Antibes and despite his impaired mobility, Hartung continued painting well into old age, producing his characteristic large-format works, some up to five metres large – exquisitely aesthetic works, which appear so effortlessly painted yet radiate a distinct artistic intention and an irrepressible energy.

Hans Hartung not only provided his era with an original artistic language, but he also established a new form of artistic perception. Every individual work by Hartung has an invariable intensity that is impossible to evade.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue.

HANS HARTUNG

(*1904 in Leipzig, DE - 1989 in Antibes, FR)

EDUCATION

- 1928-1931 Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich (Student of Max Doerner), DE
1924-1926 Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig and Dresden, DE
1924 Studies Philosophy and Art History at the University of Leipzig, DE

AWARDS (selection)

- 1989 Grand Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, FR
1988 Citizen of honour of Lau Gaudé, FR
1987 Citizen of honour of Belfort, FR
1985 Grand Prize of the bimillennial celebration of the city of Paris, FR
1984 Grand Cross with Star for Distinguished Service of the Order of Merit Bavarian Maximilian Order for Science and Art, DE
1981 Oskar Kokoschka Prize, Austrian Federal Government, AT
1976 Citizen of honour of Antibes, FR
1970 Grand-Prix des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, FR
1968 Commander of the Legion of Honour, FR
1967 Grand Prize VII. International Biennial of Graphic Arts Ljubljana, SVN
Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters, FR
1960 International Grand Prize for painting, Venice Biennial, IT
1957 Rubens Prize of the city of Siegen, DE
1956 Guggenheim International Award, Europe-Africa section, USA

SOLO SHOWS (selection)

- 2018 Hans Hartung, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR
2017 Hans Hartung. In An Alternate Reality, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE
2016 Hans Hartung No2, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE
Hans Hartung and the Photography, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Siegen, DE
Hans Hartung, Peintre et Légionnaire, Musée de la légion étrangère et centre d'art penitents-noirs, Aubagne, FR
2015 Hans Hartung. Bilder aus den 70er und 80er Jahren, Galerie Fahnenmann, Berlin, DE
2014 Hans Hartung. Oficina do Gesto, CCBB, São Paulo, BRA
The Roots of Signs, Graphic Works, Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica, Rome, IT
2013 Painting – Gesture – Liberation, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE
Art at the Nexus of Painting and Writing, Seoul Calligraphy Museum, Seoul Art Center, ROK
Noirs d'encre Regards croisés, Baur Foundation, Geneva, CH
2012 Hans Hartung Opere scelte 1947-1988, Galleria Farsetti Frediano, Florence, IT
2010 Hans Hartung. Prints. Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, FR, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Genève, CH, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, DE
2010 Vom Esprit der Gesten - Hans Hartung, das Informel und die Folgen (About the Esprit of gestures - Hans Hartung, the informal and the consequences), Kupferstichkabinett Berlin, DE
Hans Hartung: lo slancio, Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Turin, IT
Hans Hartung, Musée Régional d'Art Contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon, Sérignan, FR
2008 Hans Hartung. Le geste et la méthode, Fondation Maeght, Saint Paul de Vence, FR

SETAREH GALLERY

- 2007 Hans Hartung - Spontanes Kalkül (Spontaneous Calculation), Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kiel, DE and /08 Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig, DE
- 2007 Hans Hartung. Leipzig Antibes, Museum of Fine Arts Leipzig, DE
- 2005 Hans Hartung, Museum of Fine Arts, Beijing, National Museum, Nankin, CHN
- 2004 Hans Hartung. Early drawings, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, DE
- 1980 Retrospective of his early works, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, FR
- 1975 Retrospective, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
- 1974 Retrospective for his 70th birthday at Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, Cologne, DE
- 1969 Retrospective. Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris and Houston, USA and Québec, Montreal, CAN
- 1962- Retrospectives in Zurich, CH and Vienna, AT, Dusseldorf, DE and Amsterdam, NL and Brussels, BE
1963
- 1957 Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover, DE
- 1956 Galerie de France, Paris, FR
Galerie Craven, Paris, FR
- 1952 Retrospective, Kunsthalle Basel, CH
- 1947 Galerie Lydia Conti, Paris, FR
- 1931 Galerie Heinrich Kühl, Dresden, DE

GROUP SHOWS (selection)

- 2015 Sensations de nature: De Courbet à Hartung, Musée Courbet, Ornans, FR
- 2014 L'Art Informel à Paris: Hans Hartung, Lee Ungno, Zao Wou-Ki, Pierre Soulages, Lee Ungno /15 Museum, Daejeon, KOR
- 2014 Les désastres de la guerre 1800-2014, Louvre-Lens, FR
Le choix de la modernity. Rodin Lam, Picasso, Bacon, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, FR
- 2013 At the Nexus of Painting and Writing, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, KOR
- 2011 Les sujets de l'Abstraction (1946 - 1962), 101 masterpieces from the Gandur Foundation for Art, Geneva, Musée Fabre, Montpellier, FR
- 2009 Dead line, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris, FR
Die Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1949-2009, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, DE
- 2008/9 Repartir à zéro, Musée des Beaux Arts Lyon, FR
- 2008 Action painting, Fondation Beyeler, CH
Kassandra Visionen des Unheils 1914-1945, Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin, DE
- 2007/8 BE-BOMB THE TRANSATLANTIC WAR OF IMAGES AND ALL THAT JAZZ. 1946-1956, MACBA Barcelona, ES
- 1964 documenta III, Kassel, DE
- 1961 École de Paris, Tate Gallery, London, UK
- 1960 Venice Biennial, IT
- 1957 documenta II, Kassel, DE
- 1955 documenta I Kassel, DE
- 1953 Younger European Painters: A Selection, Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
/54
- 1952 Venice Biennial, IT
- 1948 Venice Biennial, IT
- 1938 20th Century German Art, New Burlington Galleries, London, UK
- 1937 Avant-Garde, Jeu de Paume, Paris, FR
- 1935/1937/1945 Salon des Surindépendants, Paris, FR
- 1932 Junge Malerei, Galerie Flechtheim, Berlin, DE

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (selection)

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR
Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, FR
Tate Gallery, London, UK
Museum Ludwig, Cologne, DE
Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, DE
Museum Folkwang, Essen, DE
Reina Sofia National Museum, Madrid, ESP
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Peggy Guggenheim Collection, New York, USA
Cleveland Museum of Art, USA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA
Art Institute of Chicago, USA
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, USA
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA

BIBLIOGRAPHY (selection)

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Hans Hartung, No. 2., (exhibition catalogue) ed. by Emma Nilsson, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf 2016

Hans Hartung. *Painting – Gesture – Liberation*, ed. by Emma Nilsson, essay by Hans-Werner Schmidt, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf 2013

Hans Hartung. *Estampes / Druckgraphik*, ed. by Céline Chicha-Castex, Christian Rümelin & Andreas Schalhorn, Berlin/Paris/Genève 2010/11

Hans Hartung. *Spontanes Kalkül (Spontaneous Calculation)*, ed. by Hans-Werner Schmidt & Dirk Luckow, Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig/ Kunsthalle Kiel, Kiel 2007/08

Hartung x 3, ed. by Franz-W. Kaiser, Anne Pontegnie & Vicente Todoli. Musée des Beaux-Arts Angers, Angers 2006

Hans Hartung. *So beschwor ich den Blitz. Arbeiten auf Papier 1922-1938. Großformatige Bilder 1980-1989*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne 2004

Hartung: *Peintre moderne, oeuvres ultimes*, Fréjus, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Milan 1996

J. Mundy, *Hans Hartung: Works on Paper 1922–56*, (exhibition catalogue), Tate Gallery London, London 1996

Hans Hartung, *Monographe*, ed. by Pierre Daix, Daniel Gervis, Editions Milan 1991

Hans Hartung. *Das graphische Werk 1921-1965*, ed. by Rolf Schmücking, Revised edition, Schmücking, Basel 1990

Hans Hartung (1904–1989). *Les Oeuvres ultimes*, (exhibition catalogue), Galerie Marwan Hoss, Paris 1990

Jacques Michel, 'Hartung, L'Abstracteur lyrique', in: *Le Monde Aujourd'hui*, Paris, 3 June 1985, n.p.

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Hartung, ed. by Pierre Descargues, Éditions Cercle d'Art, Paris and Ediciones Poligrafa, Barcelona 1977

Hans Hartung. Autoportrait, ed. by Monique Lefebvre, Bernard Grasset, Paris 1976

Hans Hartung. Autoportrait: Récit recueilli par Monique Lefebvre, Paris 1976

Hartung, ed. by M. Maurice Berard, Musee National d'Art Moderne, Milan, Editions Fratelli Fabbri/ Paris, Editions Odege/ New York, Editions Abrams 1968

Hans Hartung. Aquarelle 1922, Erker-Verlag, St.Gallen 1966

Hans Hartung, ed. by Jean Tardieu, Éditions Fernand Hazan, Paris 1962