

Memphis Schulze Where do you stop to remember?

6 September - 4 October 2014

Opening 5 September 2014, 6 pm

Memphis Schulze, the painter-friend of Sigmar Polke – a rediscovery.

“Who is this man?” – Sigmar Polke immediately asked himself this question when he first saw the paintings of Memphis Schulze. He absolutely wanted to become acquainted with the man behind these works.

They still exist, the great unknowns of contemporary art. It is only now that the work by Memphis Schulze (1944 – 2008) is appreciated and understood in its complexity. In the Düsseldorf art scene of the 1970s, however, he was well-known. Together with fellow artist Sigmar Polke, he began to create most diverse and unorthodox works, putting into practice a concept of art formed by Pop Art and the rebellious spirit of the time.

The quality in the art of the autodidact Memphis Schulze was first discovered by Sigmar Polke, who invited him to joint exhibitions with other artists. Within this circle of friends, mutual cooperation and participation in the works of others was common practice: the traditional understanding of authorship was largely overturned by them.

They painted whatever formed their lives. The insignia of his time reappear in Memphis Schulze’s multi-faceted works: pop culture, music, and a revolutionary attitude. The libertarian spirit swirls through the works: characters from comic books meet up with heroes from ancient mythology, sexy pin-ups stand right next to romantic figures and realistic representation meets strict abstraction. These elements stand for themselves, but they also connect to become a universe of their own, thereby opening new levels and narratives to the viewer. An example for this is the painting “Wo lassen Sie vergessen” (roughly: “Where do you let [yourself] forget?”) in which half-remembered, half-fantasized female nudes relate to abstract figures that oscillate between graffiti and cave paintings.

Setareh Gallery is pleased to be able to present and reintroduce this dazzling and fascinating artist to an international audience.

Solo exhibitions

- 1978 Das Gespräch mit dem Sessel (Conversation with the armchair) – Galerie Arno Kohnen, Düsseldorf
1979 Oppenheim Studio, Köln
1980 Hat denn die ganze Welt Geburtstag? (Is it the whole world's birthday today?) – Galerie Arno Kohnen, Düsseldorf
1988 Studio Carol Redfield
1989 Museo de Arte de Sinaloa, Culiacan, Mexico
Museo Moderno, Mazatlan, Mexico
1990 Studio Carol Redfield
Galerie Cultural, Tierra Nueva Culiacan, Mexico
Mexico – Galerie im Kinderspielhaus, Düsseldorf
1991 Frauenbilder (Females) – Babs, Düsseldorf
Der Spieler (The Gambler) – Ronsdorferstr 77, Düsseldorf
1992 Heartbeat – Galerie Co10, Düsseldorf
Art-Kunst Leasing – Freiheitsstr. 23a, Mönchengladbach-Rheydt
1994 Im Hemd über die Alpen (Crossing the Alps wearing a shirt) – Alte Fabrik, Mettmann
1995 Das Gespräch mit dem Sessel (Conversation with the armchair) – Galerie Co10, Düsseldorf
2000 Die Ermüdende Suche nach der Blauen Mauritius (The tiring search for the Blue Penny) – Galerie Co10, Düsseldorf
2002 Flammende Herzen (Flaming hearts) – Galerie Co10, Düsseldorf

Group exhibitions

- 1973 Between 7 – Kunsthalle Düsseldorf
Some 260 Miles from here – Gallery House London
1975 Mu nieltnam Netorruprup / Rock'n'Roll Bilder (Rock'n'roll paintings) – Kunsthalle Kiel
1980 Galerie Max Hetzler – Stuttgart
1981 Highlights – Städtisches Kunstmuseum, Bonn
Treibhaus (Green house) – Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf
Happy Chaos – Kunstverein Düsseldorf
1983 Galerie Silvio R. Baviera, Zürich
1985 Imagination – Galerie Peter Noser, Zürich
Wir Kellerkinder (We deprived children) – Städtische „KellerGalerie“ Düsseldorf mit Achim Duchow
1986 Macht und Ohnmacht der Beziehungen (Power and powerlessness of relationships) – Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund
1987 Medien Mafia Präsentiert (Media mafia presents) – Hafen Düsseldorf
1990 Große Kunstausstellung NRW, Düsseldorf
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1995 Gruppe im Prozess (Group in a process) – Con-Sum, Düsseldorf
2000 Hommage à Achim Duchow – Galerie Klein, Bad Münstereifel
2009 Sigmar Polke: Wir Kleinbürger! Zeitgenossen und Zeitgenossinnen (We petty bourgeois! Contemporaries) /
POP – Hamburger Kunsthalle