



**Show 12:
BERTOLD MATHES. SONG ABOUT THE MIDWAY
WORKS FROM 1982 TO 2014**

20 September 2014–8 March 2015

Opening: Friday, 19 September 2014, 7–9 pm

Professional Preview: 19 September 2014, 4 pm



Bertold Mathes, *ohne Titel (untitled)*, 140 x 85 cm, 1986



Bertold Mathes, *Messer (knife)*, 82 x 62 cm, 1982

After a longstanding cooperation and friendship between the artist Bertold Mathes and Jochen Kienzle, passionate collector and chairman of Kienzle Art Foundation, we are pleased to present a comprehensive retrospective of the diversely faceted paintings of Bertold Mathes from 20th September 2014 until 8th March 2015.

In his work, Mathes explores the limits of the abstract painting and sounds out the abysmal potentials of non-representational art. Sometimes loud and rebellious, sometimes strict and formal the work oscillates between conceptually calculated abstraction and radical, scenic outbreaks.

„**Free-style-subjective-organic-abstract-figurative-construction**“, that's how Mathes describes the work of his creative phase of „non-systemic painting“ himself and points with an ironic wink to the paradox and denying of labelling, which forms a central element of his work. Against this backdrop, the idea of a comprehensive showcase becomes even more enthralling. **How do the works of an artist, who consciously refuses to follow a certain style, relate with each other?** Despite a conceptual framework, Mathes' creative produce is characterised by an almost irritating diversity, openness and unpredictability. That which unites his paintings is a peculiar moment of chaos within order. Mathes mainly works contrary to our habitual vision and convention, is constantly breaking the rules of painting



and generally demands a lot of viewers, who at first must process the visual shock, before being able to perceive and value the meticulously created compositions and thoughtful arrangements.

This essential break with conventions of painting and most especially with visual perceptions of art has been utilized expressly for the conception of this exhibition and is mirrored clearly in the presentation of the **19 carefully selected single works and two spatially ample groups of work**: „Show 12: SONG ABOUT THE MIDWAY. Works from 1982 till 2014“ can, by no means, be seen as a classic retrospective or even a Best-of of the past 32 years. In fact, the exhibition is **explicitly about a non-chronological access** that leaves no room for deadlocked analytical concepts like progressive development or historical allocations, but rather gears the vision towards the status of abstract painting and postulates questions of readability, interpretation and meaning of the works.

A booklet accompanies the exhibition with an introductory text by Barbara Buchmaier. Moreover, there will be an **exclusive Professional Preview for invited guests**, where you will have the opportunity to see the works in advance in a small circle and speak to the artist.

Should you be interested in participating in the Professional Preview, or for further information and images, please contact presse@kienzleartfoundation.de.

Bertold Mathes (*Freiburg i. Br.) studied painting from 1979 until 1985 at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe/Freiburg. His work has been shown in various solo and group shows including Cologne, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Stuttgart, Berlin, Munich, Karlsruhe, Potsdam, Heidelberg and Nürnberg. Furthermore he has been able to celebrate worldwide success in Toulouse, Beijing, Amsterdam and Sydney. Recently he has contributed works to the following exhibitions: “Drift“, BKV Brandenburgischer Kunstverein, Potsdam (2012), “Berlin Non Objektive“, SNO contemporary art projects, Sydney (2012), “KEINE PAROLE. Malerei-Aktion-Konzept. Die Sammlung Kienzle“, Kunstmuseum Magdeburg (2013), “Was wir zeigen wollen“, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg (2014). He lives and works in Berlin and Waldkraiburg.

KIENZLE ART FOUNDATION



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Opening hours:
Thursday–Friday 2–7 pm
Saturday 11 am–4 pm