



NEW RELEASE

Gorgona

Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein

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The Croatian avant-garde art group GORGONA (ca. 1959 – 1966) and the history of the group's reception

In 1959, a number of painters, sculptors, an architect, art critics, and art theorists came together in the capital of Croatia Zagreb to found the GORGONA Group.

Their shared aim was to establish a new aesthetic practice that differed from practices in socialist Yugoslavia, at the same time engaging in a dialogue with international avant-gardes. They did not develop a common »style«, instead the activities of the group, that disbanded in 1966, combined creative, processual, linguistic, and theoretical positions that referenced the tradition of Eastern European avant-gardes from the early 20th century while also examining the development of art in Western Europe before and after 1945. Their most well-known exponents today are Julije Knifer, Ivan Kožarić, Mangelos, Đuro Seder, and Josip Vaništa.

Julije Knifer (born 1924 in Osijek, Croatia, † 2004 in Paris, France) decided to focus his work as a painter on a single subject, the meander, at the beginning of 1960. He saw his interest in repetition or "monotony", as Knifer himself put it, as a liberating creative act capable of allowing art to find itself in a process comparable to meditation. In spite of the unvarying motif, Knifer's work is highly diverse and exhibits a high degree of technical precision.

Dimitrije Bašičević, (born 1921 in Šid, Serbia, † 1987 in Zagreb, Croatia) an art historian and art critic who would later work as a curator for many years, used the pseudonym Mangelos for his

artistic practice. His oeuvre is pervaded by an undercurrent of scepticism and despair in view of human cruelty. As a schoolboy he had already concerned himself with the people he knew and who died during World War II – be it as soldiers, partisans or civilians. Later Bašičević's work focussed on the impossibility of images and language. Scepticism regarding the possibility of producing meaning also informs his poetic work, which comprises, inter alia, numerous manifestos.

Đuro Seder (born 1927 in Zagreb, Croatia) had already been practising a form of reduced figurativeness in his painting before confining himself to a handful of basic shapes which exude an elemental energy. In his later years this "energy" trail led him to create works of a highly expressive nature.

www.kunstmuseum.li

Exhibition

Gorgona, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein

09.06. – 03.09.2017

Lecture

Gorgona. Heute und damals, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein

24.06.2017, 6 pm

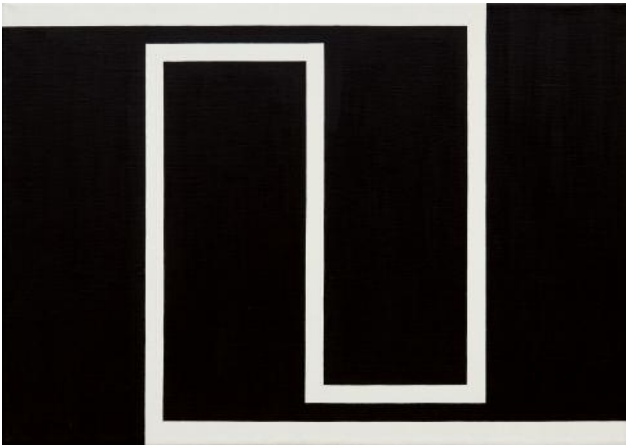
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1_Julije Knifer, *Ohne Titel*, 1973
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2_Josip Vaništa, *1963-XII Komposition*, 1963
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3_Ivan Kožarić, *Innere Augen*, 1959/1960
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4_Dimitrije Bašičević (Mangelos), *Tabula rasa*, 1954–1966
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5_Duro Seder, *Ohne Identität*, 1960
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6_Dimitrije Bašičević (Mangelos), *Višičsvet logički nemoguć* (Eine Welt auf höherer Ebene ist logisch unmöglich), um 1977-1978
© courtesy Mario Bruketa und Galerie Martin Janda, Wien



7_Ivan Kožarić, *Diptih (Diptychon)*, 1978
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