

-Press release-

# SIGMAR POLKE – THE EDITIONS

28 April 2017 – 27 August 2017

Press lunch: 20 April 2017, 10 – 12 a.m.

Opening: 28 April 2017, 10–12 a.m.

me Collectors Room Berlin / Olbricht Foundation

Auguststrasse 68, 10117 Berlin

Opening hours: Tue – Sun, 12 – 6 p.m.



**The complete editioned works of Sigmar Polke, one of the most important contemporary artists, will be on view from 28 April until 27 August 2017 at Berlin at *me Collectors Room*, featuring approximately 200 works from the collection *Kunstraum am Limes*.**

The artist's editioned works hold a special place within his oeuvre. For Sigmar Polke (b. 1941 Oels, now Oleśnica/Poland, d. 2010 Cologne), editions were a further opportunity for intensive and excessive variations on his experiments, allowing him to stage a confrontation without end between himself and the world. Like an alchemist, he expected different techniques to bend to the will of his creative ego and so his editioned works comprise objects, books, portfolios, photographs, photocopies, collages, and numerous prints.

Polke never allowed technique to dictate the progression of his artistic work. In part, he transformed identical prints into unique objects by altering the foreground, background, or layering. The *Kunstraum am Limes* Collection thus contains several variations of copies of the same edition, including, for example, *Freundinnen I* (*Girl Friends I*, 1967), *Reihertanz* (*Heron Dance*, 1997), or *Sauberes Auto* (*Clean Car – High Spirits*, 2002). Other works are compositions consisting of several layers and printed on both front and back, such as *Leave the Lab and Enter the Office* (1980–91) or *Eisberg* (*Iceberg*, 2001). *Figur mit Hand* (*Es schwindelt...*) (*Figure with Hand, Dizzy...*, 1973) and *Danneckers Hausgecko* (*Dannecker's House Gecko*, 2009) are serigraphs and lithographs, printed on textured, flocked paper embossed with snakeskin. On closer examination, the 'dot' print, a hallmark of Sigmar Polke paintings, becomes visible through the specific surface structure.

Sigmar Polke's images are products of his world and surroundings. They reveal many traces of the changing society of the postwar years. Trivial scenes, the banality of everyday life, ambitions of the middle classes, national and international politics – all of this, he put under a microscope to consider and analyze. This enabled him to convey a unique picture of reality, shot through with irony, humour, and pointed criticism.

The artist worked concurrently with different techniques; his editions and his painting should be understood as symbiotic. Created in tandem, each extends the other's existence. They feed on each other.

A selection of Sigmar Polke's posters will be presented in parallel.

The exhibition is curated by Tereza de Arruda.

On the occasion of *Sigmar Polke – The Editions* a **catalogue** will be published through Walther König.

#### **Event series**

17.05.2017, 7 p.m.: Expert talk with Anna Polke & Erhard Klein

28.06.2017, 7 p.m.: Expert talk with Mike Karstens & Tereza de Arruda

13.07.2017, 6.30 p.m.: Curator's guided tour with Tereza de Arruda

As ever, guided tours are available to **school groups**, inclusive practical workshops.

#### **Sammlung Kunstraum am Limes**

All artworks in the exhibition *Sigmar Polke – The Editions* are part of the *Kunstraum am Limes* Collection. Its founder, Dr. Axel Ciesielski, worked systematically with gallerists Erhard Klein and Christian Lethert from 1997 to 2009 to build up this segment of his collection. The collection is the only one in the world that contains the complete editioned works of Sigmar Polke. Since 2009, the collection has been shown at various international institutions, including the Oldenburger Kunstverein (2010), the Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP, 2011), the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen (2013), and the Museum Les Abattoirs in Toulouse (2014).

#### **Credits and copyrights:**

Sigmar Polke, Ohne Titel (Münster 1975), 1975

Sigmar Polke, Freundinnen II, 1967

Sigmar Polke, Plakat Festival d'Automne à Paris, 1988

Sigmar Polke, Mu nieltnam netorruprup, 1975

All © The Estate of Sigmar Polke, Cologne, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2016, Photo baumann fotostudio gmbh

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