

Meuser

Trocknen Lassen

September 8 - October 27, 2018

18, rue du Bourg-Tibourg, 75004 - Paris



COURTESY DE L'ARTISTE ET GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA, PARIS / BRUXELLES
CRÉDIT PHOTO : © BERTRAND HUET / TUTTI IMAGE

Galerie Nathalie Obadia is very happy to present *Trocknen Lassen* (Let dry), Meuser's third exhibition after *Tout va bien Alles in Butter* in 2007 and *Strubbel die Katz* in 2015.

Born in 1947, in Essen, in the Ruhr region, Meuser is one of the most emblematic minimalist German artists. A former student of Joseph Beuys and Erwin Heerich (along with the likes of Martin Kippenberger, Albert Oehlen, and Günther Förg), at the prestigious Düsseldorf Academy of Art, he has been a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, from 1992 - he was invited by Jan Hoet that year to participate in documenta IX, in Kassel - to 2015.

As a young man, Meuser, son of an engineer at a factory in Essen, began his art education under the influence of Russian constructivism (from Malevitch to Mondrian) but also that of American minimalism (from Ellsworth Kelly to Donald Judd). The artist's questioning of these movements is incarnated in the rigorousness of his work and constantly guides his reflections.

In his work, Meuser has developed a process of collecting metallic objects, which he finds at landfills, especially the ones of Düsseldorf or of Karlsruhe. He then transforms these objects by distorting them in places, painting them—here, in oil—and sometimes toying with the effect of trompe-l'oeil. In fact, his brand-new steel works, on show at the gallery, one painted a brilliant yellow, another a faded purple, some rust-colored, others gray, confuse our perception of the materials' original state. These heavy sculptures, placed on the ground or hung on white walls, create one large composition that appears to be in motion. Characterized by ambivalence and tension, they seem at once to be anchored in the space's very architecture and to float around us.

The multitude of nuances, the play on shadow and light, the transparencies and the variety of textures animate these sculptures by enhancing their plasticity. The artist offers us dynamic and vivid shapes, via simple gestures and disconcerting sincerity. All of a sudden, his work appears to transcend minimal art.

Meuser annihilates time, while simultaneously highlighting the Past. His work is an echo to Essen, his birthplace and the symbolic center of Western Germany's steel sector, also immortalized in the photographs of Bernd and Hilla Becher. These fragments—fossils charged with personal and collective History—paint the social portrait of the post-war German population. The objects, whose original functions are sometimes impossible to guess, also evoke the excessively consumeristic society and the process of mechanization.

Meuser was born in 1947, in Essen (Germany). He lives and works in Karlsruhe (Germany).

A former student of Joseph Beuys and Erwin Heerich, at the Academy of Fine Art and Philosophy, in Düsseldorf, between 1968 and 1976, he is presently a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Karlsruhe.

An exhibition of his work will open on September 15, 2018, at the Kunstraum Grässlin St. Georgen (Germany).

Meuser's work has been the subject of monographic exhibitions, such as *Nachspülen* at Meyer Riegger Gallery in Karlsruhe (Germany, 2018); *Abwasser* at Galerie Bärbel Grässlin in Frankfurt (Germany, 2018); *Herr Ober, zwei Doppelte* at Meyer Riegger Gallery in Berlin (Germany, 2014); *Knautsch* at Städtische Galerie in Karlsruhe (Germany, 2011); *Wo ist oben?* at Gallery Gisela Capitain in Cologne (Germany, 2009); *Die Frau reitet und das Pferd geht zu Fuß* at the Kunsthalle in Düsseldorf (Germany, 2008); *Meuser mit Pinsel ohne Farbe* at Meyer Riegger Gallery in Karlsruhe (Germany, 2007); *Metrostation Oberkampf* at Lichthof der Staatl, at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe (Germany, 1996); at the Kunsthalle in Zürich (Switzerland, 1991); at Villa Arson in Nice (France, 1991); *Die Dunkelheit, Klarheit, Deutlichkeit, Angemessenheit und die volle Zusammenschau (Intuition)*, Kabinett für aktuelle Kunst at Bremerhaven and Galerie Bärbel Grässlin in Frankfurt (Germany, 1984).

He also participated in numerous, important group exhibitions, including *50 Jahre Avantgarde. Das Kabinett für aktuelle* at the Kunst Bremerhaven in Bremen (Germany, 2018); *Ausbruch aus der Fläche - Das Origami Prinzip in der Kunst* at Marta Herford in Herford (Germany, 2018); *Skulpturen aus der Sammlung* at Städtische Galerie in Karlsruhe (Germany, 2017); *Narrativas monumentales. Figuras, paisajes y rituales* at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Gas Natural Fenosa in Corunna (Spain, 2015); *Ausstellung der Professorinnen und Professoren zum 300. Stadtgeburtstag* at Städtische Galerie in Karlsruhe (Germany, 2015); *Ruhe vor dem Sturm. Postminimalistische Kunst aus dem Rheinland* at the Museum Morsbroich in Leverkusen (Germany, 2015); *PRÄSENTation. Geschenke für die Sammlung des Zentrums für Kunst- und Medientechnologie* at the Museum für Neue Kunst in Karlsruhe (Germany, 2012); *Art Foundation Mallorca Collection, Special Edition* at CCA Andratx (Spain, 2012); *Schlachtpunk. Painting in the Eighties* at the Darmstadt Kunsthalle, Darmstadt (Germany, 2012); *FischGrätenMelkStand* at Temporäre Kunsthalle in Berlin (Germany, 2010); *Abstraktes Material* at the Kunsthhaus in Graz (Austria, 2005); *Superman in Bed. Sammlung Schürmann* at Museum am Ostwall in Dortmund (Germany, 2004); at documenta IX, Kassel (Germany, 1992); *Room Enough, Sammlung Schürmann* at Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum in Aachen (Germany, 1987); *Tableaux Abstracts* at Villa Arson in Nice (France, 1986).

Meuser was the recipient of the Bremen Kunstpreis der Böttcherstraße (Germany), in 1985, and of the ars viva "gestaltete Räume" in Berlin (Germany), in 1991-1992.

His works are included in important public and private collections, including the Städtisches Museum Abteiber (Germany), Städtische Galerie Karlsruhe (Germany), Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (Germany), Neue Galerie Graz (Austria), Staatsgalerie Stuttgart (Germany), Museum Ludwig (Germany), Centro Cultural Andratx (Spain), The Martin Margulies Collection (USA), Maxine & Stuart Frankel Foundation for the Arts (USA).

Paris Bourg-Tibourg

Meuser

Trocknen Lassen
september 8 - oktober 27

Wang Keping

november 9 - december 22

Carole Benzaken

12 janvier - 23 février 2019

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri

Rina Banerjee

Native Naked
september 8 - oktober 27

Nú Barreto

november 9 - december 22

Carole Benzaken

12 janvier - 23 février 2019

Bruxelles

Edi Hila

Open Museum
september 6 - oktober 27

Valérie Belin

november 15 - januar, 2019

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