

MARC STRAUS NEW YORK

HERMANN NITSCH

Opening Reception: Friday April 12, 2019, 6pm–8pm

Exhibition on view: April 12 – May 19, 2019



Hermann Nitsch
Schüttbild, 2018

Acrylic on canvas and cotton
78.7 x 59 inches (200 x 150 cm)

MARC STRAUS is proud to present our third solo exhibition with Austrian artist Hermann Nitsch, with an opening reception on Friday April 12th, 2019 from 6pm – 8pm and then remain on view until May 19th, 2019.

One of the most critically-acclaimed living artists, Hermann Nitsch turned 80 years of age in the Fall of 2018. He is now being celebrated in a series of exhibitions at museums throughout Austria, Italy, and Germany. A co-founder of what has become Viennese Actionism and the creator of the *Theatre of Orgies and Mysteries* he has spent his life dedicated to art. Despite hundreds of performances and exhibitions in some of the most prestigious institutions and galleries in the world, Nitsch continues to be restless, to innovate, to create new works that are intense as ever.

We will toast Mr. Nitsch's birthday with an exhibition of new paintings produced in recent years, a body of work where color comes center stage. These are pictures of intense blues, greens, and yellows—a full spectrum of emotion and soulfulness. Painting and performance have always been intrinsically tied in his *gesamtkunstwerk*, or a total synthesis of the senses through art. Thus, the creative act, that moment of spontaneous explosion is most viscerally captured on canvas.

How does one create art about the exigencies of life? That Nitsch's art engenders such strong protest, even prosecution, is understandable – his art is certainly

unsettling and, as with some of the great artists, it is both uncompromising and revealing. Fearless and vital, it asks questions that are not always comfortable. Yet there is such beauty to be found in his paintings. His pigments offer the richness and palpability of life, for example the yellows veer towards the brilliance of the most vibrant of flowers or blues the deepest of oceans. While absolutely original, one can draw parallels to the greatest abstract paintings of the 20th century: Kazuo Shiraga of the Gutai movement, Yves Klein, or even

MARC STRAUS

NEW YORK

Joan Mitchell. Each painting is the record of Nitsch's passion and devotion, representing a life of originality, courage and dissidence.

Hermann Nitsch (b. 1938, Vienna, Austria) lives and works at Prinzendorf Castle on the Zaya River, Lower Austria. His works are exhibited in the two Nitsch Museums in Mistelbach and Naples as well as in the Nitsch Foundation in Vienna and can be found in the permanent collections of preeminent international museums including: MoMA, the Guggenheim, The Metropolitan Museum New York, Tate Modern London, The Centre Pompidou Paris, Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich and many more. He has had numerous solo museum exhibits worldwide. Nitsch will have a major solo exhibition at the Albertina Museum in Vienna in the Spring of 2019 parallel to our presentation in New York.

For more information, please contact Ken Tan (info@marcstraus.com / 212-510-7646)
Please tag your images with #marcstraus