

AUREL SCHEIBLER



Jackson Pollock

Screenprints

Duration: 14 March – 25 April 2009

Private view: 14 March 12 – 4 p.m.

Location: Aurel Scheibler

Witzlebenplatz 4

14057 Berlin

The indelible influence of Jackson Pollock's revolutionary painting style on the progression of art history remains undisputed.

Aurel Scheibler is proud to host the first European show of Pollock's screen prints, which he produced beginning in the early 1940s until 1951. Only 70 of these unique works are known to exist in the artist's limited body of work, 20 of which will be on

show at Aurel Scheibler. These prints were executed while simultaneously working on his large-format paintings and offer new insight into his artistic methods. The commonly perceived image of Jackson Pollock (1912-1956) conveyed by exhibitions, films and photographs has nearly succumbed to a cliché: the artist as a wild genius whose use of the "drip" technique and Surrealist automatism in monumental paintings lent abstract art a new form. Art historical consideration of the screen prints, however, renounces such stereotyping in favor of a differentiated understanding of the artist's approach. The prints reveal an extremely methodical, development-oriented artist who constantly altered and manipulated the master drawing, thereby making each print a unique work. Consisting of a dense web of lines spanning the entire sheet, some clearly refer to Pollock's concerns with pictorial space. Influences are particularly discernible in the early prints' emphasis on surreal and cubistic elements and motifs reminiscent of Paleolithic cave painting. The gradual dissolution of concrete form, his use of vertical and horizontal formats as well as colored ink and clayey paper distinguish these works as experiments with themes similarly addressed in his body of painting. The dynamic and command of lines, the creativity and continuity in the invention of their form illustrate what makes Jackson Pollock so extraordinary: his unquenchable thirst for knowledge and pleasure in experimenting with various artist media earned him an exceptional position in the history of art.

The Museum of Modern Art (New York) was largely responsible for establishing the relevance of Jackson Pollock's graphic production. The special show *Focus: Pollock and Printmaking* within their major retrospective of 1998/1999 brought this area of Pollock's oeuvre into the public eye for the first time.

Image.: Jackson Pollock, untitled, ca. 1950-51, screenprint, 21,6 x 14 cm, Pollock-Krasner Foundation archive no. M51, courtesy Washburn Gallery, New York and the Pollock – Krasner Foundation