

A U R E L S C H E I B L E R

Berlin, April 2018

AUREL SCHEIBLER AT ART COLOGNE 2018

Aurel Scheibler's presentations surprise and convince with quality and rarity. Combining younger artists with established and historically relevant positions and works marks his participations at Art Cologne since 1994.

This year's focus lies on Alice Neel (1900-1984), the most important American portrait painter, recently celebrated with a retrospective at the Deichtorhallen in Hamburg. A premiere for a European artfair is this highly interesting group of works that manifest Neel's social and political commitment from the 1930's on through to her late work of the 1970's.

A striking sculpture by Norbert Kricke (1922-1984) is *Raumplastik Blau* from 1952. Important works from this early period in Kricke's oeuvre can barely be found on the market today. As companion to the minimal *Raumplastik* by Kricke and at the same time as counterpoint to the works by Neel a late painting by Ernst Wilhelm Nay (1902-1968), *Segmente* from 1966 is presented. It belongs to the group of his so-called "elementary" paintings. Two-dimensionality and abandonment of illusionistic pictorial spaces are characteristic of these paintings. Color and shape are inseparably intertwined. One of Nay's main ideas is realized therein: "The surface is to be raised to form by the color".

Among the young positions from the gallery program, the portrait is again a focal point. A great portrait from the 1990s by the photographer Jack Pierson (*1960) is on view alongside paintings by Vivian Greven (*1985) and Wolfgang Betke (*1958) creating interesting thematic references to the works by Alice Neel. The recurring interest in the subject of landscape in contemporary art is to be found in the positions discovered by Aurel Scheibler such as Zhang Wanqing (*1985), Jonathan Bragdon (*1944), and Michael Wutz (*1979).