

## Press Release for DC Open 2015

Düsseldorf 4 September – 31 October 2015

### **“Curt Stenvert: Der Grusz”**

Curt Stenvert (\*Vienna as Kurt Steinwendner, 1920; +Cologne, 1992) was an Austrian painter, filmmaker, photographer and object artist. He is regarded as one of the most significant artists of the Viennese post-war avant-garde. As a director, he was a cinematic pioneer, shooting the first Austrian experimental film, which was shown at the Venice Film Festival in 1951. In 1959, he was accorded the Österreichischen Staatspreis award, and in 1962, won the Silver Bear at the Twelfth International Film Festival at Berlin.

In 1966, Stenvert represented Austria at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale; and in the following year, he participated in the groundbreaking “Le Monde en question” exhibition at the Musée d’art moderne in Paris. In 1972 he showed at documenta 5 in Kassel.

A pivotal factor in Stenvert’s work was the expression of movement, and it took him first from painting to film and from there to his assemblages and sculptures. Beginning in 1962, he turned to object art; his engagement with current issues found form in tableau manner set as if on a miniature stage in display boxes and vitrines. Stenvert developed his conception of a ‘functional art’ with the demand that art be no end in itself but be of use to society as a source of knowledge, strength and energy. In his 1971 manifesto for bio-cybernetic painting, he articulated his own theory and situated humankind and human relations at the centre of his œuvre. In the early 1970s, Stenvert returned with new vigour to painting. To enhance the effect of his movement paintings, he looked to a decorative, flat treatment of his subjects, combining this with a broad, glowing palette of colours and grounds of gold.

Opening as part of the DC Open 2015 weekend, the exhibition includes the painting “Der Grusz” (The Greeting); it is one of the artist’s principal works. It took him all of a decade, from 1973 to 1983, to complete.

**Opening Friday, 4 September 2015, 6 pm – 10 pm.**

**Exhibition** to 31 October 2015.

**Gallery hours** Tuesday – Friday 12 noon – 6 pm, Saturday 12 noon – 4pm;  
and by appointment.

#### **Note:**

For **DC Open - Düsseldorf Cologne Open Galleries 2015** the joint gallery opening of selected Düsseldorf and Cologne Galleries, the gallery will be open **Saturday, 5 September, 12 – 8 pm** and **Sunday, 6 September, 2015, 12 – 6 pm.**