

# Herbert Zangs

## Less is More

29 September — 17 November 2018

Private View:  
Friday 28 September, 6-9pm

Blain|Southern Berlin  
Potsdamer Straße 77-87  
(Mercator Höfe)  
10785 Berlin



Herbert Zangs, *Rechenzeichen*, 1978  
Courtesy The Estate of Herbert Zangs and Blain|Southern  
Photo: Trevor Good

Blain|Southern is pleased to announce an exhibition of works by Herbert Zangs (1924-2003). *Less is More* brings together key pieces from Zangs' signature bodies of work made between 1952-78, such as *PlusMinus*, *Whitenings*, *Folding Reliefs* and *Structural-Arithmetical* works.

Herbert Zangs never formally associated himself with any artistic movement, but his use of monochrome and serial structures can be seen as a precursor to the Zero movement. He found early recognition in the 1950s, shortly after completing his studies at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, alongside Joseph Beuys and under Otto Pankok. A number of early career museum exhibitions placed him amongst the leading voices within the post-war artistic dialogue.

The impact of the war and the effects of austerity prompted artists of the time to find new ways of expression. Zangs worked with found objects, improvising with common materials such as cardboard, wrapping paper, wood and jute to create collages, reliefs and sculpture. As a pilot in World War II, his flights over devastated, snow-covered landscapes triggered his *Whitenings* series. Raising existential questions in the aftermath of the war, these whitewashed reliefs ask what exists beyond the surface.

Another key aspect of Zangs' practice was his use of mathematical symbols. In the *PlusMinus* series he used 'x', '+' and '-' in the form of collage or blackened wooden boards with drilled holes. The symbols function as a geometric and aesthetic repertoire that appears throughout his oeuvre. They can be seen as mere forms, but the mathematical signs also symbolise logic, structure and calculation, perhaps an ironic counterpoint for an artist whose work was based on free-spirited intuition.

Other reoccurring motifs in Zangs' work are the *Folding Relief* and the *Grid*. The grid has a special significance due to the fact that it represents a rigid, inflexible system, which Zangs rebelled against his whole life.

## Notes to Editors

The exhibition runs concurrent to Ali Banisadr *The World Upside Down*.

## About the artist

Herbert Zangs (b. Krefeld, Germany, 1924-2003)

Herbert Zangs' has had numerous solo exhibitions internationally including: *Herbert Zangs-Gemälde*, Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld, DE (1950); *Herbert Zangs-Paintings and Drawings*, New Vision Centre Gallery, London, UK (1957); *Dibujos de Herbert Zangs*, Galeria Chica de la Casa del Lago, Mexico City, MX (1968); *Neue Arbeiten*, Center Art Gallery, New York, US (1969); *Paintings by Herbert Zangs*, Centennial Centre of Science and Technology, Toronto, CA (1969); *Herbert Zangs*, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, DE (1974); *Herbert Zangs- Verweißungen*, Mannheimer Kunstverein, Mannheim, DE (1978); *Herbert Zangs- Verweißungen*, Museum Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden, DE (1978); Auckland Gallery, Auckland, NZ (1985); *Herbert Zangs- Arbeiten 1952-1962*, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, DE (1985); *Herbert Zangs-oeuvres 1952-1959*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, FR (1995); *Zangs-Retrospektive*, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, DE (1998); *Zangs-Retrospektive*, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, DE (1998); *Herbert Zangs- in memoriam*, Krefelder Kunstverein, Krefeld, DE (2003); *Die Weißungen- Herbert Zangs (1924-2003)* Goethe-Institut, French Cultural Center (2006) Izmir, TR; *Accrochage Herbert Zangs from 1953 to 1954*, Atelier du Musée Zadkine, Paris, FR (2007).

His work was subject to many group exhibitions amongst which: *Avantgarde 1961*, Städt. Museum, Trier, DE (1961); *International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture*, Carnegie Institute, Department of Fine Arts, Pittsburgh, US (1961); *Herbert Zangs-Kurt Link- Werke der beiden in Oostende mit dem "Prix d'Europe" ausgezeichneten Künstler*, Stiftung Museum Kunstpalast (former Kunstmuseum in Ehrenhof), Düsseldorf, DE (1963); *Sammlung Cremer*, Kunsthalle Tübingen and Kunstverein, Frankfurt, DE (1972/73); *Documenta 6*, Kassel, DE (1977); *The Book of the Art of Artists Books*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, IR (1978); *Fluxus und Nouveaux Réalistes*, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, DE (1995); *L'empreinte*, Centre national d'art et de culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR (1997); *Joseph Beuys/ Herbert Zangs: Die Fünfziger Jahre*, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, LI (2007).

## About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern is a contemporary art gallery based in London and Berlin. The gallery represents an expanding roster of international artists and is the exclusive representative of the estates of Lynn Chadwick and Avigdor Arikha.

Recent exhibitions include *Doodle & Disegno*, Moshekwa Langa, Edward Kienholz, Frank Thiel, Liliane Tomasko, Wim Wenders, Marius Bercea, Rachel Howard, Michael Joo and Avigdor Arikha.

## Gallery information

Blain|Southern  
Potsdamer Straße 77-87  
(Mercator Höfe)  
10785 Berlin

Tuesday to Saturday: 11am - 6pm  
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For further information on the exhibition, please contact Julia Niebuhr at Blain|Southern Berlin or Laura Callendar at Blain|Southern London

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