

LÜPERTZ »Art, which stands in the way«

March 18 – May 29, 2016

MKM Museum Küppersmühle für Moderne Kunst, Duisburg

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Painter and sculptor, poet and jazz musician, intellectual and craftsman, footballer and workaholic – Markus Lüpertz defies categorization. And yet over the past 50 years he has dedicated himself unflinchingly to fashioning a uniquely distinctive body of work which has since entered the canon of German art history.

From March 18, 2016, the Foundation for Art and Culture is exhibiting some 80 works from across his major creative phases in the MKM Museum Küppersmühle. Whilst the main focus lies in his painting, the show also features sculptures, reliefs, and plates. Markus Lüpertz has also produced numerous series, including the 33-part *Daedalus cycle*, which is accorded a special space within the exhibition. Several pieces on view, such as the 20-part *Gegen Abend besetzen Störche Lüpolis (Towards Evening the Storks Occupy Lüpolis)*, are being unveiled to the general public for the first time.

All these works derive from the Ströher Collection, which, as one of the few collections, boasts such an extensive selection of Markus Lüpertz' output as to enable a full appreciation of his artistic development spanning the past five decades. The exhibition also draws an arc back to the beginnings of Lüpertz's artistic career: *Kunst, die im Wege steht (Art, which stands in the Way)*, the title of his first show in 1966, which was held in the Galerie Großgörschen 35 in Berlin. With this eponymous 2016 exhibition, the MKM is presenting a survey of works from across the past 50 years by one of the most acclaimed German artists of the post-war generation.

"In contrast to the sceptical Richter or the sarcastic Polke", explains the curator Götz Adriani, Markus Lüpertz has "never called into question the position of the artist or his métier." He has from the outset worked figuratively, interspersed with elements of abstraction, and has frequently drawn on the art-historical tradition. Although conventional motifs such as landscape, still-lives, animal or human figures are featured in his output, "he is never interested in representing reality", observes MKM Director Walter Smerling. "Rather it serves to inspire his artistic imagination, which is fired by what surrounds him."

The exhibition *Kunst, die im Wege steht* is being staged by the Foundation for Art and Culture, curated by Götz Adriani. Sponsor is the Sparkasse Duisburg. The accompanying catalogue is published by the Wienand Verlag.

After the presentation in the MKM, the exhibition is transferring to the ZKM Karlsruhe from July 9 to October 23, 2016.