



SKARSTEDT PRESENTS
Variations in Abstraction
On View July – August

Skarstedt is pleased to present *Variations in Abstraction*, a group show featuring works by George Condo, Günther Förg, Jenny Holzer, Jacqueline Humphries, Martin Kippenberger, Richard Prince, David Salle, Lucien Smith and Andy Warhol. This exhibition explores the continuing influence of the Abstract Expressionist generation and each artist's unique way of approaching abstraction.

George Condo, recognized early on for his unmistakably dynamic portraits, manifests abstraction by method of compression. In *The Shuffling Madness* (2014) he forces his iconic portraits into a chaotic mass of color and form, a few remaining white markings the only decipherable vestiges of his toothy characters. Andy Warhol moved away from his celebrity and celebrated portraits of the 1960s in *Shadow (Double)* (1978), a silkscreen of a shadow that visually mimics the work of Abstract Expressionist Franz Kline. In the same year, Warhol's *Oxidation* painting, comprised of urine-splashed copper, parodies another Abstract Expressionist painter, Jackson Pollock.

As German contemporaries, Günther Förg's *Untitled* (1990) and Martin Kippenberger's *Nous n'avons pas de problèmes avec les dépressions, tant qu'elles ne se mettent pas à être en vogue (We don't have problems with depressions, as long as they don't come into fashion)* (1986) display both artist's intense preoccupation with the study of color. The uneven surface of Förg's painting introduces a tension between the flatness of the picture plane and brushstroke, giving the color density and weight similar to that of well-known color field painters. Similarly, in his typical wit, jabbing at the archetype of the heroic Abstract Expressionist painter, Kippenberger frames the central translucent layers of paint with a quote from himself.

Lucien Smith's *13* (2013) involves the appearance of spontaneity with underlying intent, interpreting Abstract Expressionist objectives through a contemporary lens. Smith showers the paint onto the canvas with a fire extinguisher, resulting in an ethereal composition that evokes the qualities of rain. Jacqueline Humphries promotes pure abstraction in *Alias* (1994) with a natural yet structured drip pattern. Humphries is interested in "pushing abstraction forward – or grabbing it out of the future," while also looking to the past:

"To me American art is abstraction. It's the culture I grew up in and I think about its legacy a lot."

- Jacqueline Humphries



About Skarstedt:



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23 Old Bond Street
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Skarstedt (20 E. 79th Street, New York, NY) was founded in 1994 by Per Skarstedt to mount historical exhibitions by Contemporary European and American artists that had become the core of his specialty in Sweden and New York in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The New York gallery's program focuses on artists of the late Twentieth Century whose work explores concepts such as representation, authorship, identity, and sexual politics across a wide-range of media. Skarstedt's unique relationship with artists allows it to present exhibitions both on the primary and secondary markets, creating a dialogue between the generations.

Skarstedt (550 W. 21st Street, New York, NY) opened May 8, 2014 in the heart of Chelsea, adding to the gallery's existing locations on New York's Upper East Side and in London. The additional gallery space enables Skarstedt to expand on its core program of museum-quality, historically researched exhibitions from modern and contemporary masters.

Skarstedt opened its London space at 23 Old Bond Street in 2012 with the inaugural exhibition *Andy Warhol: The American Indian*. Skarstedt London presents exhibitions and publications devoted to the gallery's established area of expertise while also seeking to evolve and expand its focus. Skarstedt is committed to sharing both its aesthetic perspective and philosophical approach through high-quality exhibitions and collaborations with top international museums and private collections.

The gallery works with the following artists and artists' estates: Francis Bacon, John Baldessari, Georg Baselitz, George Condo, Carroll Dunham, Eric Fischl, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, Lucio Fontana, Günther Förg, Keith Haring, Jenny Holzer, Mike Kelley, Martin Kippenberger, Yves Klein, Barbara Kruger, Louise Lawler, Sherrie Levine, Robert Mapplethorpe, Juan Muñoz, Cady Noland, Albert Oehlen, Richard Prince, David Salle, Thomas Schütte, Cindy Sherman, Rosemarie Trockel, Andy Warhol, Franz West and Christopher Wool.

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