



PRESS RELEASE

## **ALBERT OEHLLEN FABRIC PAINTINGS**

NOVEMBER 4 – DECEMBER 20

OPENING RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 4, 6-8PM



Skarstedt announces an exhibition of German artist Albert Oehlen's iconic fabric paintings, dating from 1992-1998, at their uptown gallery this fall. Instead of utilizing pristine canvas, Oehlen gained notoriety for his use of patterned fabric, complicating the predominant notion of the artist's hand as central to modern painting. Featuring 15 works from this important series, *Albert Oehlen: Fabric Paintings* will be on view at Skarstedt (20 E. 79th Street) from November 4 through December 20, 2014.

Oehlen's Fabric Paintings abandoned the strict, formal compositions that he had utilized in his early work and instead focused on the process of painting. Oehlen's work questions and plays with painting's conventions.

In the late 80s, he began to challenge the expectations of conventional abstract art in works he deemed "post-non-figurative." 1992 marked his fifth year of abstract painting. The fractured surfaces of his *Fabric Paintings* appear explosive, displaying his rigorous testing of the limits of painting. This series followed his *Computer Paintings*, shown at Skarstedt in 2009, in which he created abstractions with a mechanical tool.

Oehlen studied under Sigmar Polke at the Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg in 1978, and was greatly influenced by his use of both patterned and wooden surfaces. Oehlen explains, "I couldn't say what Polke's influence was, but it's his radicality. When you start to work as an artist everybody thinks about radicality, like how could you make the most shocking thing. And it's not easy...Polke is somebody who had a role in that; in a way he made very radical things." Oehlen was also influenced by de Kooning and the Abstract Expressionist generation, with their focus on painterly gesture and the artist's hand.

### **About Albert Oehlen:**

Albert Oehlen has been a key figure in contemporary painting since the 1980s. While Baselitz, Richter, and Polke ruled the art world in the 70s and 80s, Oehlen emerged as the heir apparent in the 90s. Albert Oehlen is scheduled to have a retrospective at the New Museum, New York in 2015.

He has exhibited extensively throughout the United States and Europe. Recent solo exhibitions of his work have been held in institutions including the Museo di Capodimonte in Naples, Italy and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris in 2009.



Skarstedt presented solo exhibitions of Oehlen's work in 2009, 2005, 2003, and 2001. Oehlen has also participated in exhibitions at major institutions such as the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne, the Renaissance Society in Chicago, and the Kunsthalle in Basel. Oehlen's show at MoCA Miami in 2005 marked his first major solo exhibition at a museum in the United States. In 2009, Taschen published an oversized artist's monograph as part of its XL series that covers the entire scope of Oehlen's oeuvre. Albert Oehlen lives and works in Switzerland.

### About Skarstedt:



20 East 79th Street  
New York NY 10075



550 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York NY 10011



23 Old Bond Street  
London W1S 4PZ

Skarstedt (20 E. 79<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

Skarstedt opened its Chelsea space at 550 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street in May 2014 with the inaugural exhibition *Klein and Warhol: Fire and Oxidation Paintings*, 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.

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.

Image Credit: Albert Oehlen, *Ohne Titel*, 1993, oil on printed fabric, 94.49 x 94.49 in (240 x 240 cm).

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