BASELITZ - RICHTER - POLKE - KIEFER
THE EARLY YEARS OF THE OLD MASTERS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2019 - JANUARY 5, 2020
DEICHTORHALLEN HAMBURG

Baselitz, Richter, Polke and Kiefer. Four names from Germany that have attained world fame. The exhibition at Deichtorhallen Hamburg focuses on the 1960s. Featuring some 100 works, it shows how, in the early years of their careers, these artists responded to an era characterized by challenges and upheavals, utopias and reorientations, power and protest.

Even if they all refer to themselves as apolitical, their art continues to shape the world's positive image of a new, different Germany to this day. In the sixties, their figurative paintings challenged the primacy of abstraction. Baselitz painted heroes torn asunder. Polke and Richter unmasked the absurdity and emptiness of the consumption that beckoned from all sides. Kiefer exposed the historical roots of the so-called "Third Reich". It is a stroke of luck to have the opportunity to unite works by the four masters in a single exhibition, and thus to shed light on this important phase in German history.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue by guest curator Götz Adriani, which will contain interviews with the artists about their early work and its significance, numerous illustrations as well as an in-depth documentation of the 1960s.
Adriani is not only of the same generation as the exhibition's protagonists, but also friends with all of them. Conversations with the three still living and a very personal text on Sigmar Polke form the core of the exhibition catalogue.

The exhibition is limited to early works from the following periods of the artists' career: the years 1959-1969 with Georg Baselitz, 1962-1969 with Gerhard Richter, 1963-1969 with Sigmar Polke and finally 1969-1977 with Anselm Kiefer. The exhibition of the Deichtorhallen Hamburg is a cooperation with the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart.

With this exhibition, the Deichtorhallen Hamburg will not only be celebrating its 30th anniversary on 9 November, but also 30 years of German unity.

Under the Patronage of the Federal President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

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OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, 12 September 2019, 7 p.m. at the Hall for Contemporary Art

PRESS CONFERENCE

Thursday, , 12 September 2019, 11 a.m. at the Hall for Contemporary Art. Welcoming speeches by Dirk Luckow (General Director Deichtorhallen Hamburg) and Götz Adriani (curator of the exhibition).

PRESS INFORMATION

Press releases and images are available at www.deichtorhallen.de/presse

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CATALOG

Götz Adriani: Baselitz, Richter, Polke, Kiefer – The Early Years of the Old Masters. Edited by the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart; Deichtorhallen Hamburg, published at Sandstein Verlag, 342 pages, 360 illustrations, colour and black-and-white, 30,5 x 23,5 cm, Hardcover, Available as of 12 April 2019 , 48 Euros

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Every first Thursday of the month 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

ADRESS

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Georg Baselitz. Der Wald auf dem Kopf, 1969
Öl auf Leinwand, 250 x 190 cm
Museum Ludwig, Köln, Schenkung Sammlung Ludwig, 1976
© Georg Baselitz 2019

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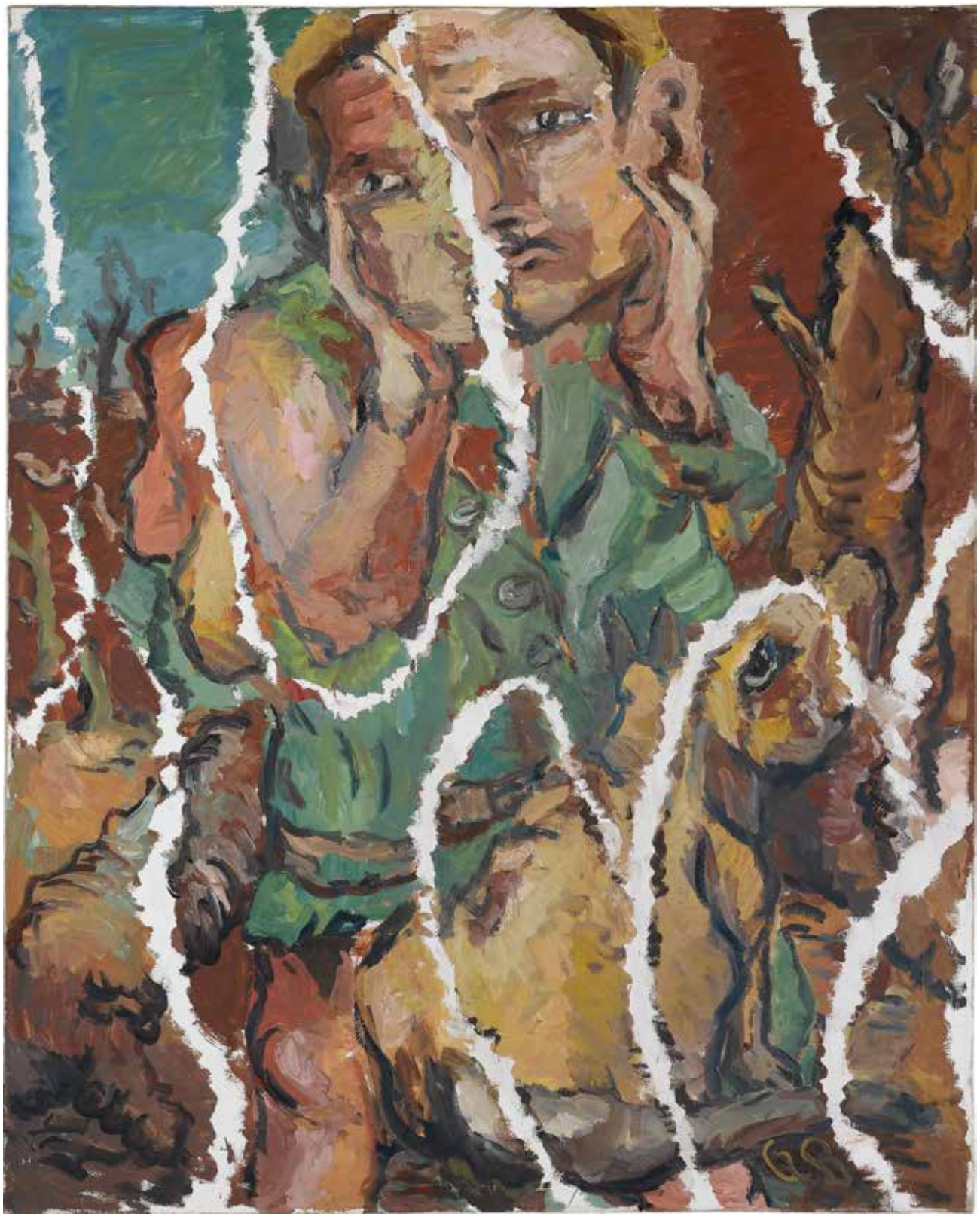

Georg Baselitz. Ein Grüner zerrissen, 1967
Öl auf Leinwand, 162 x 131,5 cm
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart
© Georg Baselitz 2019

Georg Baselitz. Fixe Idee, 1964
Öl auf Leinwand, 162 x 130 cm
Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe
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Georg Baselitz. Sommermorgen, 1964
Öl auf Leinwand, 162 x 130 cm
MKM Museum Küppersmühle für Moderne Kunst, Duisburg, Sammlung Ströher
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Georg Baselitz. Verschiedene Zeichen, 1965
Öl auf Leinwand, 162 x 130 cm
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Sammlung Beyeler, Foto: Robert Bayer
© Georg Baselitz 2019

Georg Baselitz. Vorwärts Wind, 1966
Öl auf Leinwand, 162 x 130 cm
Sammlung Ströher, Foto: FriedrichRosenstiel, Köln.
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Gerhard Richter. Krankenschwestern, 1965
Öl auf Leinwand, 48 x 60 cm
Kunstmuseen Krefeld
© Gerhard Richter 2018 (26022018)

Gerhard Richter. Kuh II, 1965
Öl auf Leinwand, 157 x 113 cm
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart
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Gerhard Richter. Phantom Abfangjäger, 1964
Öl auf Leinwand, 140 x 190 cm
Sammlung Froehlich, Stuttgart
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Gerhard Richter. Schloß Neuschwanstein, 1963
Öl auf Leinwand, 190 x 150 cm
Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden
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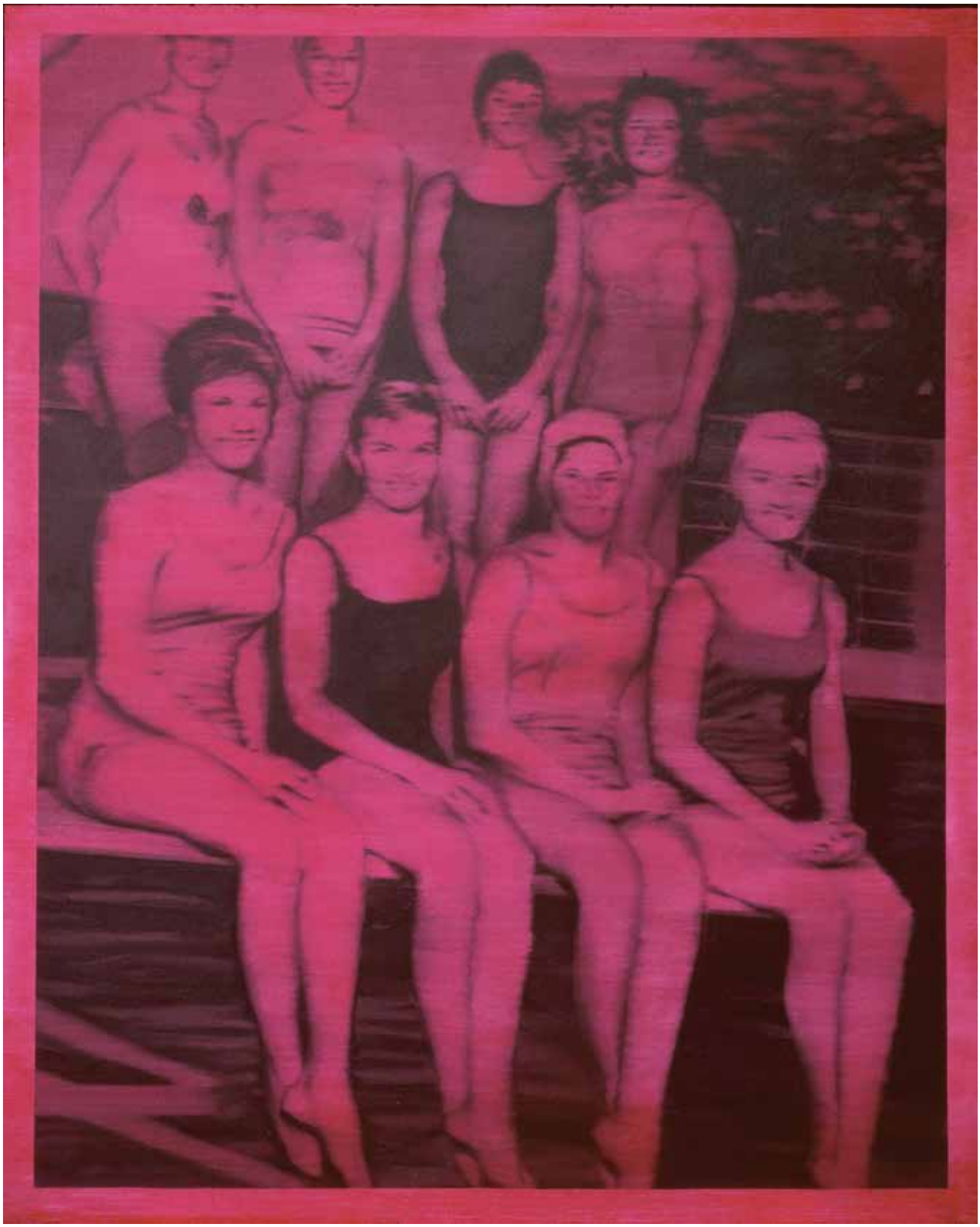

Gerhard Richter. Schwimmerinnen, 1965
Öl auf Leinwand, 200 x 160 cm
Sammlung Froehlich, Stuttgart
© Gerhard Richter 2018 (26022018)

Gerhard Richter. Tiger, 1965
Öl auf Leinwand, 140 x 150 cm
Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen
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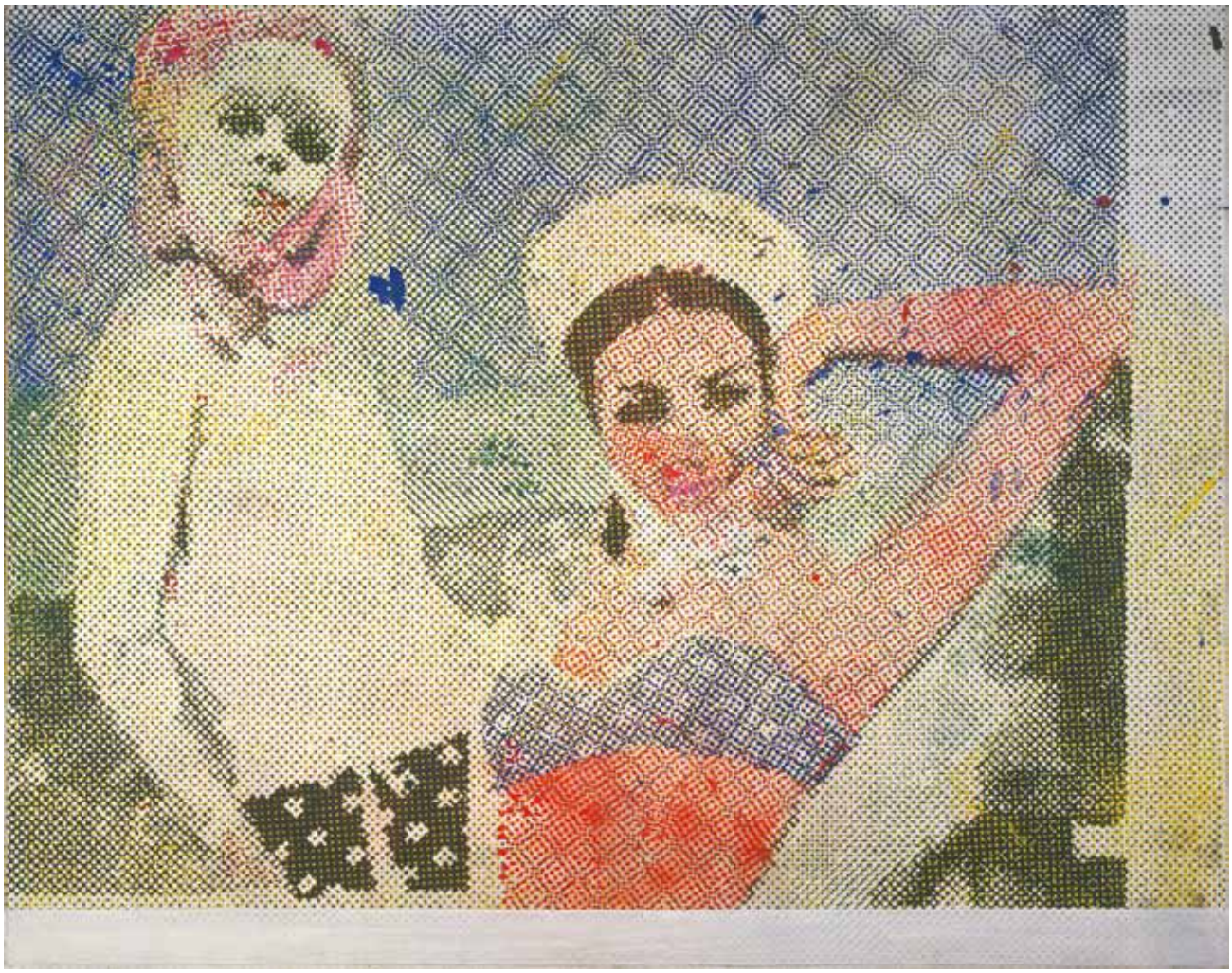
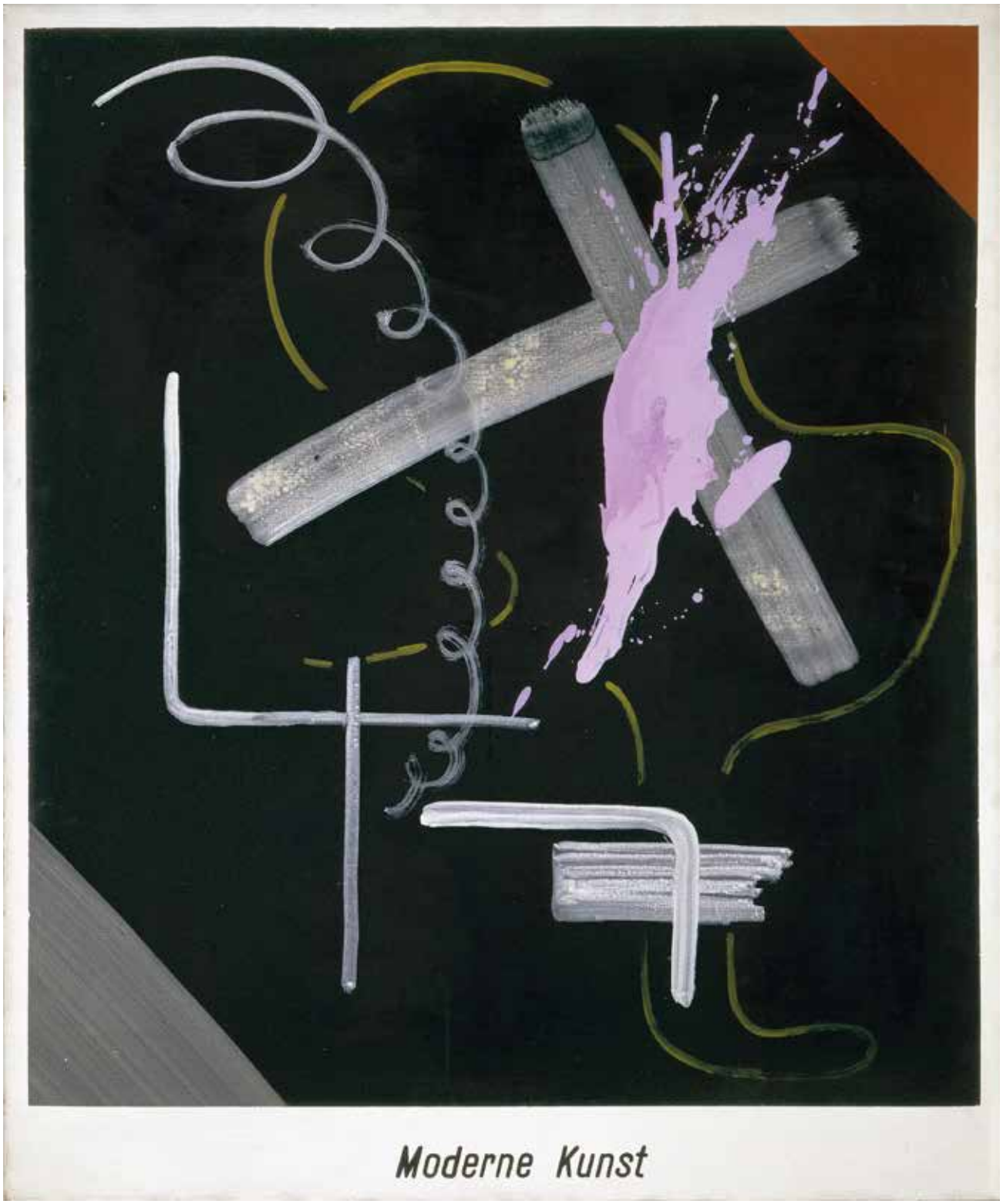


Sigmar Polke. Freundinnen, 1965/66
Öl auf Leinwand, 150 x 190 cm
Sammlung Froehlich, Stuttgart
© The Estate of Sigmar Polke, Cologne / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019



Sigmar Polke. Moderne Kunst, 1968
Öl auf Leinwand, 150 x 125 cm
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Sigmar Polke. Ohne Titel (Doppelportrait), 1963/64
Lack auf Leinwand, 128 x 194 cm
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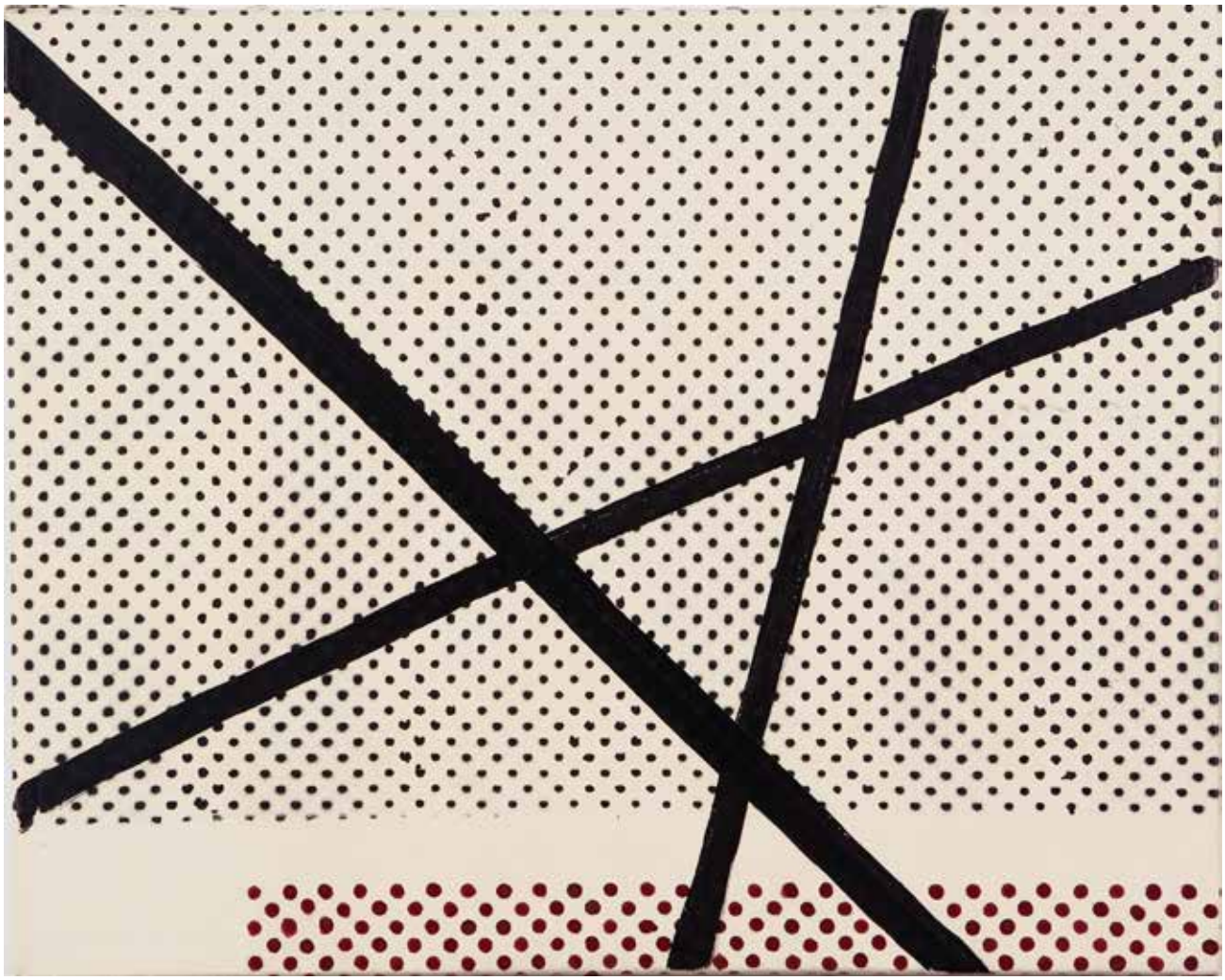

Sigmar Polke. Ohne Titel (Konstruktivistisch), 1968
Öl auf Leinwand, 40 x 50 cm
Sammlung Froehlich, Stuttgart
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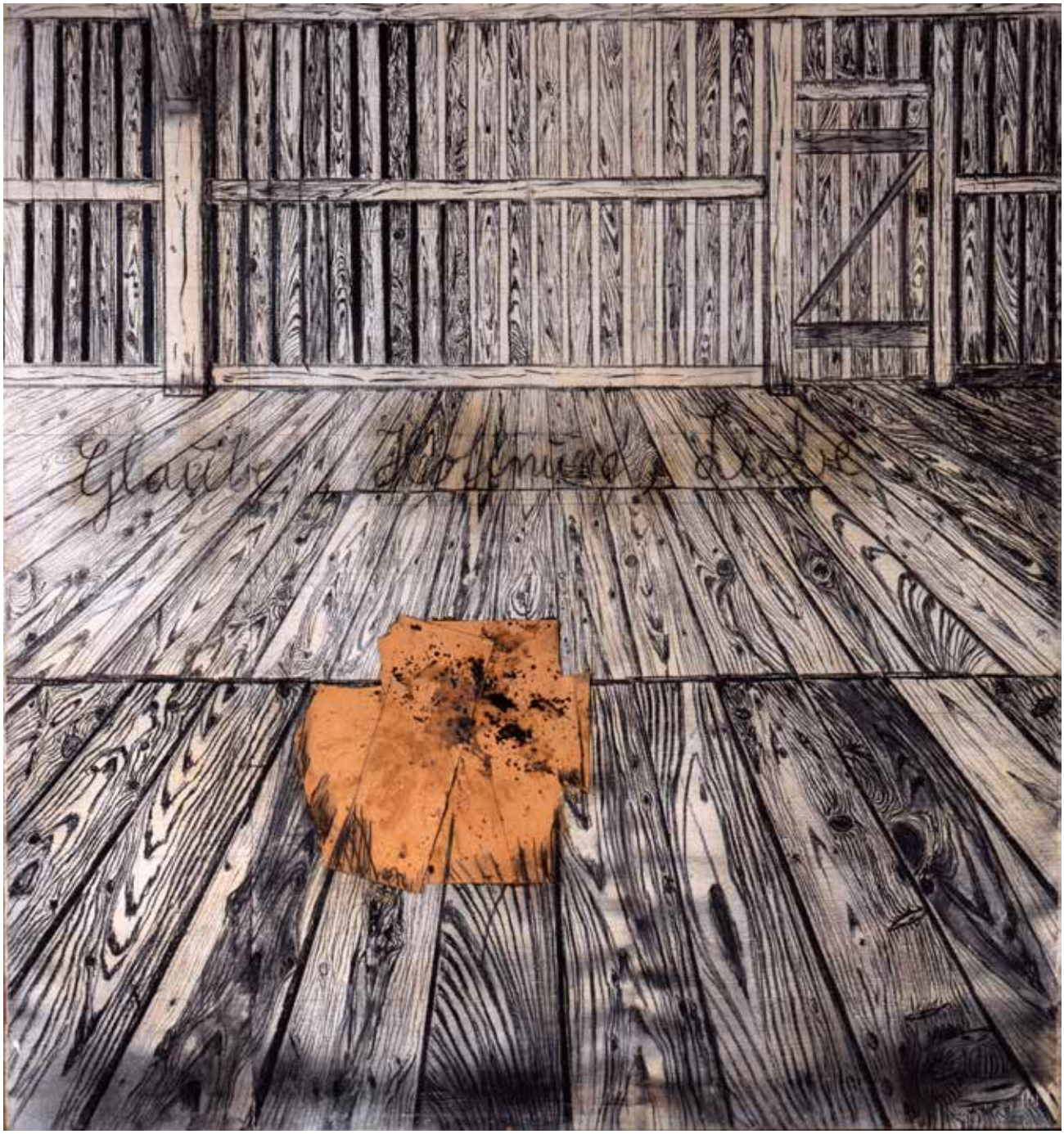
Anselm Kiefer. Heroisches Sinnbild I, 1969 - 1970
Öl, Kohlestift auf Leinwand, 260,5 x 150 cm
Sammlung Würth
© Atelier Anselm Kiefer

Anselm Kiefer. Heroisches Sinnbild II, 1970
Öl auf Baumwolle, 152 x 262,5 cm
Sammlung Würth
© Atelier Anselm Kiefer

Anselm Kiefer. Heroisches Sinnbild VII, 1970
Öl auf Baumwolle (in der Mitte quer zusammengenäht), 119 X 158,5 x 3,5 cm
Sammlung Würth
© Atelier Anselm Kiefer



Anselm Kiefer. Glaube, Hoffnung, Liebe, 1973
Kohle, Collage, Hasenblut auf Rupfen, 298,5 x 281 cm
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, erworben mit Lotto-Mitteln 1982
© Atelier Anselm Kiefer

Anselm Kiefer. Wege, 1977-1980
Öl und Holzschnitt auf zwei Leinwände aufmontiert, 160 x 260 cm
Sammlung Thaddaeus Ropac, London • Paris • Salzburg. Photo: Charles Duprat
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