

## Press Release

'Découpage, A Labour of Love'

Tarmak22, Gstaad

1 July - 1 October 2021

Tarmak22 is pleased to present the exhibition 'Découpage, 'A Labour of Love', a display of over **150 historical paper-cuts** made in the 19th and 20th century by modern Swiss masters. Tracing the origins and development of the paper cut-out as a principal motif, the exhibition honours the craft's history and its Swiss heritage as well as bringing a selection of contemporary works to Gstaad by collaborators **Sadie Coles, David Zwirner** and **Gagosian**.

Idyllic scenes of cows brought up in the mountains, floral displays on wooden chalets and geometric, heart-shaped compositions; these are just a few of the poetic, alpine motifs depicted in traditional découpage works. Having originated in the Far East, paper-cutting was first recorded approximately 2000 years ago, in China, Egypt and Japan, predominantly depicting religious subject matter. As it reached Europe in the early 19th century, paper-cutting belonged to 'upper class' education along with learning to how to play the piano or painting. The art form became primarily concerned with romantic motifs, with silhouette portraits becoming highly sought-after by wealthy, aristocratic families.

Once here in the Swiss cantons of Vaud and Bern, the practice moved away from its romantic and glamorous associations. Using a penknife and paper, it was a humble and accessible medium to depict the slow, simple and at times **laborious way of life in the Alps** as well as a popular form of passing time during long winter nights in the mountains. After the work of Johann-Jakob Hauswirth- who is considered the 'father' of Swiss paper-cutting- was discovered forty years after his death in 1871, the **Musée du Vieux Pays-d'Enhaut** in Château-d'Œx made a commitment to preserve the artistic heritage in the area, founding a museum in 1922 dedicated to découpage. This has enabled the practice to receive the attention it deserves and thus remains very much alive in the region today.

With a generous loan from the museum, this exhibition displays the collection of the Chateau de Rougemont, which includes a significant body of work by the three local masters, **Johann-Jakob Hauswirth** (1509-1871), **Louis David Saugy** (1871-1953) and **Christian Schwizgebel** (1914-1993) alongside their contemporaries.

These exceptional pieces will be shown with those of several local artists, amongst them Margherita Agnelli de Pahlen (b. 1955) and the prolific **Anne Rosat** (b.1935), who is recognised as one of the most acclaimed artists working with the medium today.

In an effort to create a dialogue with the traditional 'découpages', Tarmak22 has invited collaborators Sadie Coles, David Zwirner and Gagosian to showcase contemporary works that echo collage-like qualities found in the paper-cuts. Amongst the artists in the contemporary selection on view in Gstaad are **Richard Prince** (b.1949), **Jockum Nordström** (b.1963), **Balthus** (1908-2001) and **Setsuko Klossowska de Rola** (b.1943).

'Découpage, A Labour of Love' was made possible thanks to the dedication and support of Marcel Bach, whose outstanding historical collection is on display as part of the exhibition. It is thanks to him that we have also been able to involve several people, Hans-Jürgen Glatz, the passionate collector behind the Hüsy Collection, and Hannes Moor from the Saanen Museum. It is through the contributions from all of the above mentioned participants that Tarmak22 is able to bring together one of broadest and largest découpage presentations in Switzerland to date.

Opening Times:

Wednesday - Sunday,

11am - 5pm or by appointment by contacting +41 033 748 31 31

For any additional information, contact [info@tarmak22.com](mailto:info@tarmak22.com)