

# Kunst Museum Winterthur

Media release

## Frozen Gesture

### Gestures in Painting

18 May – 18 August 2019

Kunst Museum Winterthur | Beim Stadthaus

#### Press conference

Thursday 16 May 2019, 11:00 a.m. or an individual tour on request

Kunst Museum Winterthur | Beim Stadthaus

Museumstrasse 52, 8400 Winterthur, Switzerland

In 1965 Roy Lichtenstein (1923–1997) created his famous *Brushstrokes* and in doing so transformed the subjective gesture of heroic Modernism into a trivial comic drawing, transmitted into a large museum format. The spontaneous movement of the brush on canvas mutated into a quote, the emotional exploration of intensity into a pop surface in signal colors. The purported immediacy of the expressive painterly act thus became an ironic reflection on the medium of painting using the means of mass culture. This distanced and self-reflective approach had defined contemporary painting since the end of Modernism. It highlighted the fundamental elements of the image, such as the appearance of the colors and the pigment, the color fields and their limits, and not least the application of paint in the form of a gesture.

This gesture had long since abandoned directly expressing existence in favor of any number of different discursive strategies and painterly approaches. To this day, artists underscore the problematic nature of the impact of the application of color and are forever reinterpreting it – from the gesture as a semiotic abbreviation for painting through to its diverse transformations in images.

In the comprehensive exhibition *Frozen Gesture. Gestures in Painting*, Kunst Museum Winterthur presents a wide range of gestures in contemporary painting. Starting with Lichtenstein's iconic *Brushstroke* and outstanding single pictures of Gerhard Richter (\*1932) and Carl Ostendarp (\*1961) the exhibition opens up to an attractive journey along art works with high painterly quality and exceptional visual appeal. Extensive ensembles of contemporary artist including Franz Ackermann (\*1963), Ingrid Calame (\*1965), Bernard Frize (\*1954), Katharina Grosse (\*1961), Robert Janitz (\*1962), Jonathan Lasker (\*1948), Fabian Marcaccio (\*1963) and Judy Millar (\*1957) meet larger work groups of important Swiss artists such as Pia Fries (\*1955), Christoph Rütimann (\*1955) and Christine Streuli (\*1975), complemented with an intervention by Karin Sander (\*1957).

### David Reed. Drawings

Based in New York City, David Reed (\*1946) is one of the most important contemporary proponents of abstract painting. The presentation of his so-called *Working Drawings* at Kunst Museum Winterthur for the first time offers a concise overview of the drawings that come at the beginning of his creative work, accompany it, document it and comment on it – opening up a thinking space in which the potential of painting is discussed.

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## Opening

Friday, 17 May 2019, 6:30 p.m.

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Museumstrasse 52, 8400 Winterthur, Switzerland

## Publication

The exhibition *Frozen Gesture* is accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue, published by Hirmer Verlag in Munich, with many colour reproductions and contributions by Yasmin Afschar, Konrad Bitterli, Dietmar Elger, Andrea Lutz, Lynn Kost and Roland Wäspe. (ca. 120 pages/ 120 images)

## **Images and information to the exhibition**

[kmw.ch/en/press/](http://kmw.ch/en/press/) or on request

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