

Press release

PIERRE KLOSSOWSKI AGIR EN IMAGE

**Photographs, documents,
video installations**

March 4 - April 30, 2023
Opening: March 3, 2023, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**Goethestraße 2,
10623 Berlin, Charlottenburg**
Entrance B via the courtyard
Phone +49 (0)30 32 30 11 33



Pierre Klossowski - Pierre Zucca, LMV, 1970.(Detail)
Courtesy: Galerie Bernet Bertram

We are pleased to draw your attention to the exhibition of works by the influential French philosopher, writer, translator and visual artist Pierre Klossowski.

For Pierre Klossowski, who became a classic in the 1980s and who died in Paris in 2001, art was "actually the science of the 'false'", which meant moving into the sphere of the 'true' and the supposedly certain 'real' transfer. He questioned the established concept of the image with what he himself called the simulacrum (mirage, illusion). Under the aspects of desire, value and appearance, he opened up a space in which the work of art and the artistic, combined with an "Eros of creation", played a central role.

Accordingly, his art acts and oscillates like "stopped pantomimes" in the permeable border areas between reality and fiction, the factual and the ghostly appearance. In the game of homage and desire, signs, meaning, essence and transformed matter mix, become the event of a 'phantasm physics' of the body and the senses.

The exhibition consists of previously unknown studies and specially researched documents from the estate, which provide an insight into the artist's working methods and world of ideas. The aim was to highlight Klossowski's experimental and current approach, which gave preference to the "practice of images" and the "appearance as an image" (›Agir en image‹).

This is also illustrated by the staged photographs that Klossowski created in 1969/70 in collaboration with the then young still photographer and film director Pierre Zucca. With the philosophical essay 'La Monnaie vivante' (Living Currency) written by Klossowski, they were part of the image-text montage of the spectacular edition of this art book, published in Paris in 1970. They refer to key motifs in Klossowski's literary and graphic work. This also applies to the portrait of the legendary "Roberte" figure, which he stylized as the "single symbol" of his creations. Furthermore, photos from the studio, documents and notations from the archive illustrate the foresight and depth with which Klossowski went about his work. Video installations and scenes from the theater production "Pierre Klossowski - Living Money" (director: Christian Bertram), which premiered in 2008, make it possible to experience the media diversity of the artist and thinker, who also described himself as a dramaturge.

In his long and diverse oeuvre, Pierre Klossowski uniquely overturned traditional classifications. He formulated new laws of value and opened up new perspectives on the impact of art with an independent visual and body language. The exhibition illustrates how Klossowski's artistic principles of order lead to an oscillation between different levels of perception, reality and art. Last but not least, the exhibition is an opportunity to explore the serious and cheerful universe of a great mind.

Pierre Klossowski, born 1905 in Paris, died 2001 *ibid.* Klossowski, son of Polish parents and brother of the painter Balthus, spent part of his childhood in Berlin. He was in close contact with Rainer Maria Rilke and André Gide, the sculptor Alberto Giacometti and the philosophers Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault, among others, and was one of the leading representatives of the reception of Nietzsche in France. His work brings together artistic, philosophical and theological aspects. With his writings, novels and more than 500 life-size drawings, he left a rich body of work. In 1981 the first major exhibition curated by Johannes Gachnang took place in the Kunsthalle Bern ("Simulacra"), in 1982 he was presented at the Documenta VII. In 1984 Klossowski was exhibited for the first time in the Center Pompidou. Further exhibitions followed in Rome, Milan, Marseille (where the complete works were shown in 1990), Vienna, Zurich, Geneva and Ixelles. 2007 exhibitions in the Whitechapel Gallery, London, the Museum Ludwig, Cologne and the Palais des Arts in Brussels.

Pierre Zucca, born in Paris in 1943, died in 1995, was a French photographer, still photographer, screenwriter and director who worked in cinema and television. He was part of the French auteur film and the post-nouvelle vague, worked with and for Jacques Rivette, François Truffaut and Claude Chabrol. Zucca made short films and four feature films. He worked closely with Klossowski for a long period of time: in 1970 on *La Monnaie vivante* and in 1977 when he directed the feature film *Roberte*, for which he worked with Klossowski on the adaptation of his texts.

Text: Christian Bertram

GALERIE BERNET BERTRAM
Goethestraße 2-3, 10623 Berlin
Phone +49 (0)30 32 30 11 33
info@bernet-bertram.com

Opening hours: Wed - Fri 2pm - 6pm, Sat 11am - 4pm and by appointment.

Special opening times for Gallery Weekend 2023
April 28th and 29th: 1pm - 7pm, April 30th: 12pm - 4pm