

GUNTER DAMISCH
Achtziger und Neunziger

Innsbruck

Mar 24 - May 13 2023
Opening Mar 23, 18 - 20h

We cordially invite you to the opening of the exhibition GUNTER DAMISCH *Achtziger und Neunziger* on Thursday, March 23, 18 - 20h, in Innsbruck.

Looking back on a long collaboration with the artist, from the early 1980s to the last joint museum project *MACRO MICRO* in 2013 at Albertina Vienna, we are now opening our 13th solo exhibition with the artist's oeuvre. *Achtziger und Neunziger* presents works that were already presented in their year of origin, as well as published in the catalogue „Gunter Damisch. Arbeiten auf Papier 1980-1990. Works on paper 1980-1990“, edited by Klaus and Elisabeth Thoman, Innsbruck 1990. These will be paired with more selected paintings and drawings, chosen together with the Estate Gunter Damisch, among them works exhibited in institutional shows, as for example *Dunkelfeld mit Seitenfluss* (1986, oil on canvas) at Kunstverein Braunschweig in 1987.

„Die Zeichnung“ so Gunter Damisch, 2013, *„ist nicht nur das Medium, in dem ich mich am unmittelbarsten ausdrücken kann, sie ist elementar und der Motor meiner gesamten Arbeit, darin dokumentieren sich meine Denk- und Werkprozesse, hier spürt man am stärksten die Weiterentwicklung. Sie bildet eine Konstante, wenn man so möchte, einen inneren Kern innerhalb meines Werkes.“*

"Drawing," says Gunter Damisch in 2013, *"is not only the medium in which I can express myself most directly, it is elementary and the motor of my entire work, in it my thought and work processes are documented, it is here that one feels the further development most strongly. It forms a constant, if you like, an inner core within my work."*

Gunter Damisch, born 1958 in Steyr, died 2016 in Vienna, studied at the Vienna *Akademie der Bildenden Künste*, among others with Arnulf Rainer. From 1992 he was a professor at the *Akademie der Bildenden Künste*, master class graphics. He was awarded numerous prizes and his works are in the most important public museum collections in Austria.

He has been drawing in blocks and groups of works since his student days, which links him to colleagues such as Gerwald Rockenschaub, Herbert Brandl and Otto Zitko. Characteristic for Damisch is not only his technical experimentation, but also his repertoire of forms - especially the connections between figuration and abstraction. The pictorial surfaces are formed from a wide variety of approaches, such as the pictorial structures of Expressionism and Art Nouveau, the surreal spaces of a Kubin or Böcklin, or even the figure abbreviations from the archaic form language of an A.R. Penck.

Despite the variety of stimuli, a singular development is unmistakable. Mythical animals, arabesques, ornaments, biomorphic forms, some of them intertwined, as well as memorable individual figures populating the spaces of the paintings, testify to his inexhaustible repertoire, whereby the excerpt-like nature of his compositions is associated with concepts such as the universe or infinity.