

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE AG

Art | Basel
Basel

Booth F01 | June 19 – 22, 2025

Galerie Karsten Greve is pleased to announce its participation at Art Basel 2025, taking place from June 19 - 22, 2025 at Messe Basel. The gallery presents two outstanding displays of works by **Louise Bourgeois** and **Jannis Kounellis** honoring the richness of both artists' oeuvres. These presentations are accompanied by a selection of artists from the gallery's historical program, notably **Pierrette Bloch**, **John Chamberlain**, **Joseph Cornell**, **Gotthard Graubner**, **Lucio Fontana**, **Pierre Soulages**, **Louis Soutter**, **Cy Twombly**, and **Wols**. **Kathleen Jacobs**, **Georgia Russell**, and **Qiu Shihua** complete this array, testifying to the gallery's commitment to both the 20th and 21st century avantgardes.

The first room unites a total of thirteen works by **Louise Bourgeois**. In the center, seven vertical sculptures give an impressive entrée. Five of the works belong to Bourgeois' *Personnages*, a series of sculptures created between 1945 - 1955 in which the artist employed pieces of found wood to render people she knew and their relationships to each other and to Bourgeois herself. Together with *Untitled (Calme toi)* and *Untitled*, two of Bourgeois' textile steels dating from 2000 and 2001, respectively, the sculptures evoke a group of peers, perhaps an army, creating a fascinating encounter. The two groups have rarely been exhibited together, adding to the display's historical dimension. The two bronzes *Topiary* (2006) and *Inner Ear* (2000), on the other hand, show Bourgeois' life-long engagement with the human body and the recurring dichotomy between inside and outside, solid and soft. On the walls, the large fabric work *Don't Swallow Me* and a selection of watercolors highlight Bourgeois' distinct oeuvre on paper.

In the second room, seven works by **Jannis Kounellis** represent decisive work groups by the artist: Two of Kounellis' *Alfabeti*, or letter paintings, are the earliest ones on display. Their stark black and white, and bold lettering convey a sense of confrontation and testify to the artist's radical gesture. Created only one year later, in 1962, the colorful paintings, *Untitled*, reveal the Kounellis' gentle and poetic side. Their palette and motif evoke the sun and moon, alluding to astronomical as well as artistic cycles. Initiating the artist's *mare*-series (1962 – 1968), the paintings are of a rare and historical quality. Their joint presentation after years in private ownership marks an exceptional event. Lastly, two unique works on paper mounted on steel allude to Kounellis' sculptural and installational oeuvre. The characteristic black tar and the coat used to make an imprint on the page are simultaneously intense and experimental, testifying to Kounellis' essential and utterly immediate aesthetic which resonates until the present day.

The third part of the booth presents a tête à tête of modern masters: **Pierre Soulages' *Peinture, 130 x 81 cm, 3 avril 2014*** (2014) offers an unusual perspective on the painter's work: a central black relief of paint is juxtaposed with two areas of white canvas on the top and bottom, creating a central zone of attention. The explicit materiality of the black paint lets the incoming light break and reflect freely while blue highlights intensify the visual experience. The painting forms part of Soulages' *Outrenoirs* in which he explored the effects of light on the surface using solely black pigment. Dating from the final years of the

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artist's prolific career, the painting manifests Soulages' artistic maturity and ongoing sense of experimentation.

Lucio Fontana's *Deposizione* is a remarkable example of the artist's ceramic production. The delicate yet majestic combination of white, light blue and gold alludes to both purity and holiness, and royalty. As is characteristic for the artist's ceramics, Fontana catches movement in an incomparable way creating a work which is at the time ravishing, rushing, and timeless. **Cy Twombly's *Birth of Venus*** (1963) takes up this sense of movement and the combination of white, blue and gold/yellow. The work on paper was created concurrently to Twombly's *Roma*-paintings and combines an ancient subject with a contemporarily timeless aesthetic marked by quick gestures and a boyish lightness.

A counterpart to this visual agitation is found in the white landscapes by Chinese artist **Qiu Shihua**. The paintings on display show different degrees of abstraction, leading the viewer into the image. Qiu regards his paintings as portals to a different understanding of time and place, an opportunity for introspection and self-focus. Their multi-layered monochromy relates to **Gotthard Graubner's *Untitled*** (1988) hanging nearby. The work's concave shape and innumerable layers of paint create a pulsating, visual and physical experience. Presented together, the works offer an experience which is at the time physical and intellectual.

Finally, three wooden boxes by **Joseph Cornell** introduce nostalgic playfulness. Employing found wood, sand, and images of maps and stars, the boxes evoke the sky and sea, and allude to voyage and dream. Their simple materials, combined in novel and unusual ways, turn the works into literal showpieces for the transformative power of art.

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PRESENTED ARTISTS

Louise Bourgeois

Joseph Cornell

Gotthard Graubner

Jannis Kounellis

Qiu Shihua

Louis Soutter

Pierrette Bloch

John Chamberlain

Lucio Fontana

Kathleen Jacobs

Georgia Russell

Pierre Soulages

Cy Twombly

Wols

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CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

ST. MORITZ

NORBERT PRANGENBERG

29.03. – 28.06.2025

DING YI

05.07 – 06.09.2025

COLOGNE

LOÏC LE GROUMELLEC

Écritures, mégalithes, et cupules II

11.04. – 28.06.2025

PIERRETTE BLOCH

04.07. – 30.08.2025

PARIS

NORBERT PRANGENBERG

31.05.2025 – 30.08.2025

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Louise Bourgeois, Rare and Important Works from a Private Collection, installation view at Galerie Karsten Greve Paris, 2013.

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Highlights at Art Basel 2025



Louise Bourgeois

Untitled

2002

Fabric and stainless steel

180.3 x 25.4 x 30.4 cm / 71 x 10 x 12 in

On the base signed: *LB*

BOUR-5440

LB/S 28

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Louise Bourgeois

Corner Piece

1947 - 1949 (cast in 1990)

Bronze, painted, Ed. 5/6

213.3 x 30.4 x 30.4 cm / 84 x 12 x 12 in

Lower signed, numbered and stamped: *L.B.* 5/6

BOUR-1509

Kat. GKG S. 40

LB/S 95

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Louise Bourgeois

Don't Swallow Me!

2008

Etching, ink, gouache, pencil and fabric on paper on wood mounted

151.1 x 180.3 cm / 59 1/2 x 71 in

Frame: 179 x 209.3 x 13.4 cm / 70 1/2 x 82 1/2 x 5 1/4 in

Recto lower right signed LB; recto left titled: *Don't Swallow Me!*

Cat. Rais. Wye / Smith, No. 770

BOUR-11476

LB/P 102

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Jannis Kounellis

Untitled

1962

Mixed media on paper mounted on canvas (linen and cotton)

152.2 x 219.5 cm / 60 x 86 1/2 in

JK/M 11

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Jannis Kounellis

Untitled

1962

Mixed media on paper mounted on canvas (linen and cotton)

152 x 195 cm / 59 3/4 x 76 3/4 in

Frame: 180.9 x 224.2 x 6.5 cm / 71 1/4 x 88 1/4 x 2 1/2 in

JK/M 9

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE AG



Jannis Kounellis

Untitled

1962

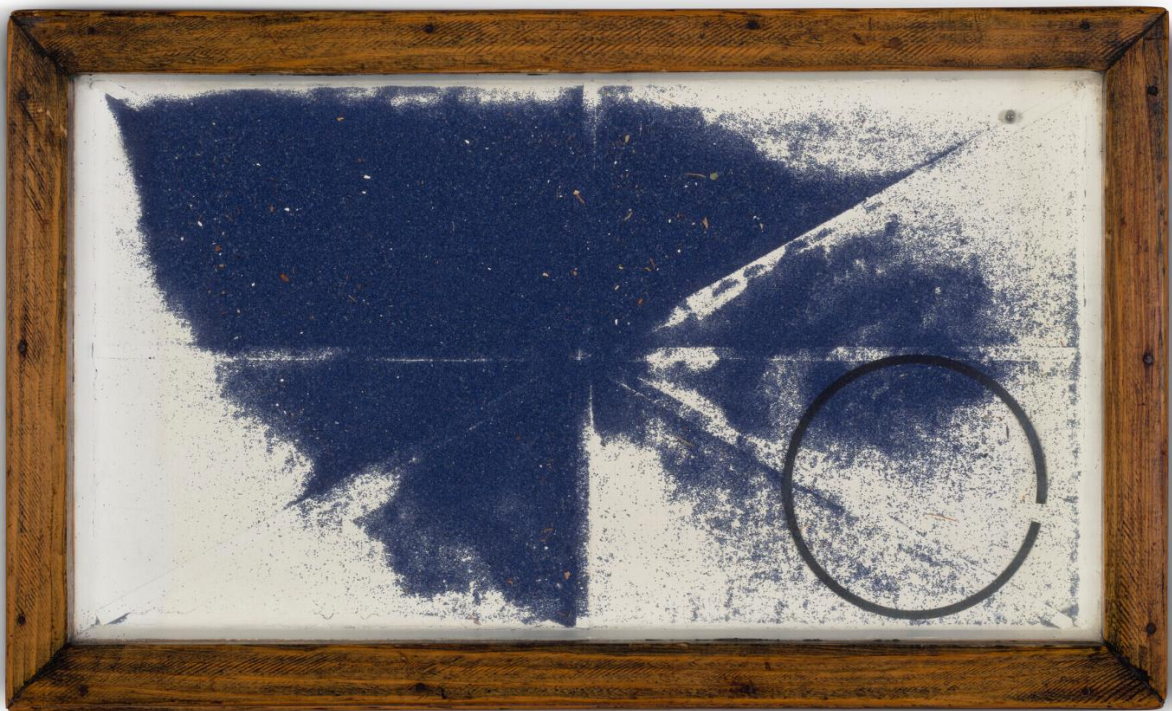
Mixed media on paper mounted on canvas (linen and cotton)

152 x 181 cm / 59 3/4 x 71 1/4 in

Frame: 180.9 x 209.9 x 6.5 cm / 71 1/4 x 82 2/3 x 2 1/2 in

JK/M 10

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE AG



Joseph Cornell

Untitled (Blue Sand Tray)

Ca. 1948

Box Construction (wood, glass, sand, metal, paper)

4.8 x 21.6 x 35.9 cm / 2 x 8 1/2 x 14 1/4 in

Lower on the label signed: *Joseph Cornell*

JCor/S 8

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE AG



Pierre Soulages

Peinture, 130 x 81 cm, 3 avril 2014

2014

Acrylic on canvas

130 x 81 cm / 51 1/4 x 32 in

Frame: 151.8 x 102.8 x 10.9 cm / 59 3/4 x 40 1/2 x 4 1/3 in

Verso upper right signed, titled and dated: *SOULAGES "Peinture 130 x 81 cm, 03 Avril 2014"*

Cat. Rais. Morando/Pacquement, *L'oeuvre complet Peintures V. 2013-2022*, #1579, p. 86

PSou/M 55

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Cy Twombly. Paintings, works on paper and sculptures, installation view at Galerie Karsten Greve Paris, 1993.

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Cy Twombly

Birth of Venus

1963

Pencil and wax crayon on paper

33.7 x 35.9 cm / 13 1/4 x 14 1/4 in

Frame: 51.5 x 53.5 x 6 cm / 20 1/4 x 21 x 2 1/3 in

Verso signed, dated and titled

Cat. Rais. Nicola Del Roscio, 2013, Vol. 3, No. 279, p. 196

CT/P 79

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Press images – Highlights at Art Basel 2025:



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BOUR-5440

LB/S 28

Courtesy of Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne | Paris | St. Moritz.

© The Easton Foundation, New York

Photo: Saša Fuis, Cologne



Louise Bourgeois

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BOUR-1509

LB/S 95

Courtesy of Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne | Paris | St. Moritz.

Photo: Jochen Littkemann



Louise Bourgeois

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BOUR-11476

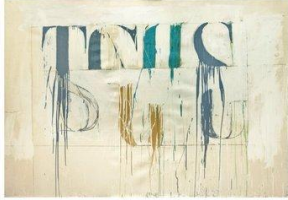
Cat. Rais. Wye / Smith, No. 770

LB/P 102

Courtesy of Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne | Paris | St. Moritz.

Photo: Christopher Burke, New York

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Courtesy of Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne | Paris | St. Moritz.
Photo: Serge Hasenböhler, Basel



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Photo: Galerie Karsten Greve



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Courtesy of Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne | Paris | St. Moritz.

Photo: Achim Kukulies, Düsseldorf

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About Galerie Karsten Greve

Galerie Karsten Greve is characterised by the diversity of artistic genres, including painting, drawing, sculpture, installations, photography and printmaking. Exhibitions of museal quality are often accompanied by abundant publications with particular attention to illustrations true to the original and words by renowned scholars, writers, poets or generally voices from the literary scene. Born in 1946, Karsten Greve studied law and art history in Cologne, Lausanne and Geneva. He began his career as an art dealer and publisher in 1969. In early 1973, he established his first gallery in Cologne, with an exhibition devoted to Yves Klein, followed by galleries in Paris (Le Marais) in 1989, and St. Moritz, Switzerland, in 1999. On his path as a gallerist and art dealer that lasts now more than 50 years, Karsten Greve maintained close relationships to the artists he supported, and significantly contributed to their international recognition.

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Sat, 10am – 6pm

Opening hours:

Tue – Fri, 10am – 7pm

Opening hours:

Tue- Fri,
10am – 1pm / 2pm – 6.30pm

Sat, 10am- 1pm / 2pm – 6pm

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