

# GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE



Cy Twombly, *Thyrsis*, 1976

## ART COLOGNE

November 6 - 9, 2025  
Hall 11.2 | Booth A 111  
Koelnmesse, Cologne

**Galerie Karsten Greve** is delighted to present a selection of key artistic positions from the 20th and 21st centuries on the occasion of the 58th edition of Art Cologne, taking place from November 6 – 9, 2025, at Koelnmesse. This year's presentation highlights pioneering figures of the international avant-garde who have profoundly shaped the gallery's identity since its early years, including **Cy Twombly**, **Louise Bourgeois**, **Lucio Fontana**, and **Jannis Kounellis**. These cornerstone artists are complemented by exceptional works from **Lovis Corinth**, **Louis Soutter**, **Pierre Soulages**, and **Pierrette Bloch**. At the same time, the gallery turns its gaze toward contemporary artists, showcasing works by **Qiu Shihua**, **Gideon Rubin**, **Kathleen Jacobs**, and **Georgia Russell**.

**Cy Twombly's** two-part work *Thyrsis* unites paper collage and graffiti-like inscriptions to create a particularly poetic composition. After his arrival in Italy in 1957, Twombly increasingly infused his art with a deep fascination for Europe's ancient cultures. *Thyrsis* refers to the *Idylls* of the Greek poet Theocritus, a collection of bucolic poems centered around the shepherd Thyrsis. Rather than depicting this figure literally, Twombly evokes the pastoral scene through a subtle interplay of color, form, and script. The dense shades of green and gestural brushstrokes conjure an image of untamed nature, not as representation, but as inner movement, an emotional topography. Fragments of writing and painterly traces echo the remnants of an ancient culture, while at the same time capturing the immediacy and vitality of the present moment.

In his landscapes, the Chinese artist **Qiu Shihua** challenges our perception of being in the here and now. At first glance, his paintings appear as white, monochromatic canvases. Yet, as the viewer lingers, delicate shades of grey, green, and blue gradually coalesce into hills and valleys, forests and lakes. Through subtle layers of paint, Qiu Shihua allows these imagined landscapes to emerge and just as gently, to fade away. This reduction to a state of meditative depth reflects Taoist philosophy, in which the invisible holds as much significance as the visible. Silence, emptiness, and transformation become the true subjects of his painting, inviting us into a contemplative, decelerated mode of seeing.

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In the works of **Kathleen Jacobs**, nature is transformed into a spiritual and poetic state. The artist stretches her often large-scale canvases around tree trunks in the forests surrounding her home in Massachusetts. Exposed to the elements for months or even years, the canvases absorb the texture of the bark, which becomes the foundation of Jacobs' compositions. The horizontal structures, together with the natural patina formed over time, evoke associations with landscapes. Under the influence of weather and light, a kind of calligraphy of nature emerges, shaped by organic structures and made visible as both movement and process.

**Louis Corinth** is represented with *Blumen in Vases*. The floral subjects to which he turned later in his career embody the passage of time, condensed into fleeting moments of light and color, fragility and beauty. With thick, impasto layers of paint, the traditional motifs are only loosely suggested. In these abstract compositions, blossoms dissolve into painterly substance. This free, gestural approach heralds the dissolution of figuration and the turn toward the artist's direct gesture: a radical emancipation of painterly expression that paved the way for abstraction.

With her *Personnages* series, **Louise Bourgeois** transformed her profound sense of displacement following her move to the United States into sculptural form. Created during a period of deep nostalgia, these totem-like figures serve as quiet stand-ins for family, friends, and memories: symbols of inner conflict and instability, yet also of intense emotional engagement with the past. The same tension between inner and outer worlds defines *Portrait of Jean-Louis*. In this wall sculpture, Bourgeois explores the dual roles of mother and artist. The hybrid figure, with animal-like legs supporting a skyscraper-like torso, reflects her impressions of Manhattan's urban landscape and embodies the central polarities of her work: motherhood and femininity, memory and identity, home and reorientation.

For **Lucio Fontana**, the exploration of space and material was fundamental. His *Concetto spaziale*, a canvas embedded with fragments of glass, powerfully illustrates his radical redefinition of pictorial space. Rather than treating the canvas as a static surface, Fontana conceived the artwork as a spatial concept: through perforations and the application of light-reflecting Murano glass shards, the image extends both into and beyond the picture plane, truly occupying three-dimensional space.

In a new body of work by **Gideon Rubin**, the painting *Black Shirt* stands out. Depicting a figure from behind, a characteristic of Rubin's faceless portraits, the work distills his subtle reflections on memory and identity. His paintings do not portray specific individuals. Instead, they evoke atmospheric impressions that stir both collective and personal recollections.

Alongside the current exhibition *Georgia Russell – The Sea Around Us*, showcasing the artist's latest works, selected pieces by Russell are also featured at the gallery's Art Cologne booth. As part of the gallery program, an **Artist Talk with Georgia Russell** will take place on Saturday, November 8 at 7 pm.

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Galerie Karsten Greve, founded in 1973 in Cologne, with additional locations in Paris (since 1989) and St. Moritz (since 1999), is defined by key figures of the post-war abstract avant-garde as well as singular artists of the early 20th century. Over the decades, the gallery's program has expanded to include significant contemporary tendencies. At **Art Cologne 2025**, Galerie Karsten Greve presents a dialogue between pivotal historical and contemporary positions from its program.

**Karsten Greve**, born in 1946, studied art history and law in Cologne, Lausanne, and Geneva. He began his career in 1969 as a gallerist and publisher.

# **GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE**

**JOSEPH BEUYS**

**PIERRETTE BLOCH**

**LOUISE BOURGEOIS**

**LOVIS CORINTH**

**LUCIO FONTANA**

**KATHLEEN JACOBS**

**JANNIS KOUNELLIS**

**GIDEON RUBIN**

**GEORGIA RUSSELL**

**QIU SHIHUA**

**PIERRE SOULAGES**

**LOUIS SOUTTER**

**CY TWOMBLY**

# GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE

## PRESS SELECTION



### CY TWOMBLY

*Thyrsis*, 1976

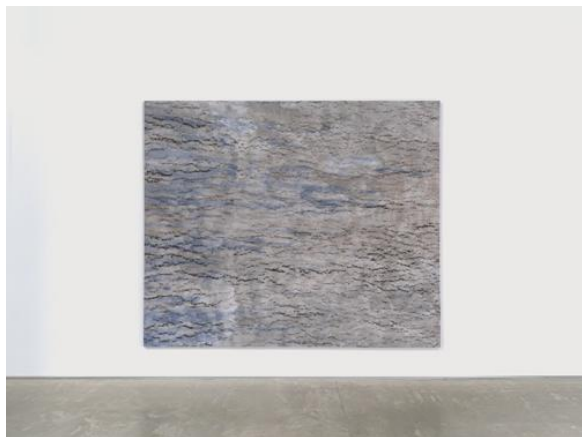
Paper collage: paper, tracing paper, adhesive tape (transparent), oil, gouache, charcoal, oil crayon, graphite and pencil on paper

Paper a: 76,7 x 65,5 cm

Paper b: 149,6 x 132,5 cm

Photo: Christopher Clem Franken

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



### KATHLEEN JACOBS

*MOUNT*, 2024

Oil on linen

248,9 x 299,7 cm

Photo: Studio Kathleen Jacobs

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



### QIU SHIHUA

*Untitled*, 2004

Oil on canvas

152 x 188 x 3 cm

Photo: Serge Hasenböhler

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

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## LOUISE BOURGEOIS

*Portrait of Jean-Louis, 1947*

Cast from 1991

Painted bronze

86,5 x 10,5 x 5 cm

Photo: Nicolas Brasseur

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



## LOVIS CORINTH

*Blumen in Vase, 1923*

Oil on canvas

50,5 x 40,6 cm

Photo: Stefan Altenburger

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



## LUCIO FONTANA

*Concetto spaziale, 1952*

Oil and glass on canvas

80 x 65 cm

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

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## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

### GEORGIA RUSSELL

*The Sea Around Us*

until December 27, 2025

Galerie Karsten Greve Köln

### DING YI

*Constellations*

until December 27, 2025

Galerie Karsten Greve Paris

### Autumn Whispers

until December 15, 2025

Galerie Karsten Greve AG St. Moritz

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

### **Manu-Facture: *The Ceramics of Lucio Fontana***

until March 2, 2026

Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice

### *Soulages, une autre lumière*

*peintures sur papier*

until January 11, 2025

Musée du Luxembourg, Paris

# **GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE**



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