

## Carroll Dunham

### *Selected Drawings*

Bleibtreustraße 15/16, 10623 Berlin

25 January – 25 February 2023

Opening: Wednesday, 25 January, 6 – 8 pm

Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin, is pleased to announce *Selected Drawings*, an exhibition of works on paper by **Carroll Dunham**. To the artist, the act of drawing is both a routine and a cornerstone for all other media in his multidisciplinary approach. The focus of the show on works in this medium is therefore intimate and highly informative of his practice at large.

One of the leading artists of his generation, Dunham is celebrated for his independent and highly distinctive oeuvre. Across several decades, his work has evolved from anthropomorphic abstraction in the 1970s to a surreal universe inhabited by archetypal human figures. Dunham's careful choreography provides insight into his subjects' complex internal world. Riding the line between abstraction and figuration, planes of strong colour and the artist's distinctive curvilinear line activate the energetically charged works.

The human body has been an ongoing primary subject in Dunham's oeuvre. Including works from several prominent series of the past decade, a selection from Dunham's celebrated 'Wrestler' series presents a male figure rendered in profile, contemplating his own reflection over a body of water, or wrestling with other male nudes in the landscape.

Works from Dunham's recent series of green humanoids, in which male and female figures are brought together, are also on view. Influenced by Dunham's interest in science fiction and cartoons, this kryptonite palette acts as a literal mode of alienation to create distance between the artist and his subject matter, enabling him to explore notions of male and female subjectivity free from tropes of race and gender.

Just as the individual nude bodies in his works have always been stereotypes, with their penises, nipples, buttocks and hair invested with such neutrality and objectivity as to elude any reference to pornography, the drawings of mating couples refer to an ancient future hidden somewhere in the cosmos. The universality of these works is highlighted by the repetition and the anonymity of the males and females whose faces are never entirely shown.

A mode for inventiveness and experimentation, drawing enables Dunham a raw and immediate pathway for his distinctive pictorial lexicon, without hierarchy towards painting.

*'There is no work of Carroll Dunham that doesn't use drawing as a foundation. I wouldn't even know what it would mean to make painting*



Carroll Dunham, *Wrestler Profile (5)*, 2014  
Photo: Pierre Le Hors

*without drawing... I have always drawn a lot, I have always used drawing as a laboratory to think about other things.'*<sup>1</sup>

**Carroll Dunham** (\*1949, New Haven, Connecticut) lives and works in New York City and Connecticut. Dunham's work has been presented in exhibitions worldwide, including at Galerie Max Hetzler, London (2021); Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and Sprengel Museum Hannover (2019–2020); Denver Art Museum (2014); Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2009); Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin (2008); Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover (2008); Drammens Museum (2006); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (2002); and Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (1996). Works by Dunham are held in major public collections including the Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Tate, London; The Art Institute, Chicago; The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Philadelphia Museum of Art; and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

A solo exhibition of prints by Carroll Dunham will be presented at The National Museum of Oslo, Norway, from February 2023. This will be the first solo museum presentation of Dunham's prints in Scandinavia.

#### [Further exhibitions and events](#)

##### Berlin:

13 January – 25 February 2023

##### **Karel Appel**

*Encounter in Spring and what follows*

Curated by Franz W. Kaiser

Bleibtreustraße 45, 10623

13 January – 25 February 2023

##### **Martin Kippenberger**

*heute denken - morgen fertig*

Works from private collections from the 80s and 90s.

Photographs by Wilhelm Schürmann and Andrea Stappert.

Curated by Josephine von Humboldt

Goethestraße 2/3, 10623

3 February – 10 March 2023

##### **Barry Flanagan**

*Imaginary Solutions*

Potsdamer Straße 77-87, 10785

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<sup>1</sup> C. Dunham, 'Interview: Carroll Dunham', filmed on the occasion of the artist's solo exhibition at Galerie Max Hetzler, Paris, 2022

Paris:

14 January – 25 February 2023

**Ai Weiwei, Leila Babirye, Simone Fattal, Adam Pendleton**

*Distant Voices*

46 & 57 rue du Temple, 75004

London:

19 January – 25 February 2023

**Jeremy Demester**

*Ram Muay*

41 Dover Street, W1S 4NS

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