

For immediate release

PALERMO

Works 1973–1976

February 26 – April 11, 2015

Press preview: Thursday, February 26, 10 AM



Palermo at Heiner Friedrich, New York, 1975.

Photo by Helen Winkler Fosdick, Houston

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David Zwirner is pleased to present an exhibition of works by German artist Palermo (1943-1977) at the gallery's 537 West 20th Street location. The exhibition, organized in collaboration with the Palermo Archive, will feature a selection of rarely shown paintings, objects, and large-scale drawings made by the artist between 1973 and 1976.

Although often associated with particular twentieth century art historical practices and discourses—including abstraction, Minimalism, and Conceptual Art—Palermo's diverse body of work defies easy classification. Throughout his brief and influential career, Palermo executed paintings, "objects," installations, wall drawings, and works on paper that addressed the contextual and semantic issues at stake in the construction, exhibition, and reception of works of art. His handling of form, color, and composition comprises a complex and experimental investigation of aesthetic concepts and of the semiotic possibilities of visual language.

The exhibition will include significant examples of the artist's objects, a self-coined category of work comprised of three-dimensional forms that hang or lean on a wall and seem to simultaneously occupy the realms of both painting and sculpture.

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Among these works is *Objekt mit Wasserwaage (Object with Spirit Level)*, 1969-1973, a shaped canvas that incorporates a leveling tool, thereby physically referring to the construction and installation of the artist's work, while also pointing to the surrounding architectural and exhibition context. Also on view will be a selection of Palermo's "*Metallbilder*," or "Metal Pictures," begun by the artist in late 1973. Executed in acrylic on thin sheets of aluminum or steel, these paintings explore the tensions and contrasts between material and color; surface and depth; and signification and abstraction; thus exemplifying his ongoing experimentation with the symbolic and formal possibilities of composition and color. The exhibition will also present an installation of large-scale works on paper from 1974. These subtly rendered drawings explore systematically related arrangements of parallelograms and will be presented together for the first time since they were originally installed at Heiner Friedrich, New York in 1974.

(Blinky) Palermo was born Peter Schwarze in Leipzig, Germany in 1943 and was adopted and raised under the name Peter Heisterkamp. He changed his name to Palermo, taking the pseudonym from the American boxing promoter Blinky Palermo ("Blinky" later became his nickname; Palermo was his chosen artist name). In the 1960s, he studied under Joseph Beuys at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Palermo died in 1977 at the age of 34 while traveling in the Maldives.

Since his first solo exhibition in 1966 at Galerie Friedrich & Dahlem, Munich, Palermo's work has been included in numerous important exhibitions in Europe and the United States at such institutions as the Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal (1968); Hamburger Kunstverein (1973); Städtisches Kunstmuseum, Bonn (1975); São Paulo Biennial (1975); Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (1986); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1986); Dia Center for the Arts, New York (1987); Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Brussels (1988); The Menil Collection, Houston (1989); Museum der Bildenden Künste, Leipzig (1993); Kunstmuseum Bonn (1994); MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; and the Serpentine Gallery, London (both 2002-03).

More recently, his work was shown in a traveling retrospective exhibition organized by the Dia Art Foundation, New York and the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College (CCS Bard), Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. The exhibition itinerary included the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2010-11); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (2011); and Dia:Beacon/CCS Bard (2011). The Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte Münster, Germany and the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Switzerland recently co-organized a traveling exhibition devoted to the artist's work titled *Palermo: who knows the beginning and who knows the end?* (2011). In 2013, David Zwirner mounted an exhibition of the artist's late drawings in New York; the accompanying catalogue included new scholarship by Christine Mehring (University of Chicago) and Christoph Schreier (Kunstmuseum Bonn).

For all press inquiries and to RSVP to the February 26 press preview, contact

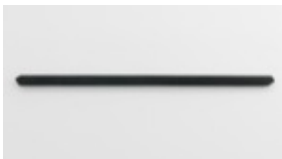
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Palermo: Works 1973-1976
537 West 20th Street
February 26 - April 11, 2015

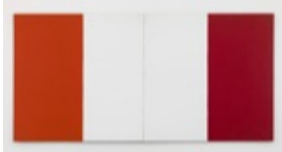
South Gallery



Blinky Palermo
Wooster Street, 1975
Acrylic on aluminum in two (2) parts
22 1/2 x 20 11/16 inches (each)
57.2 x 52.5 cm
22 1/2 x 41 5/16 inches (overall)
57.2 x 104.9 cm
Inscribed verso
Catalogue Raisonné No. 185
PALBL0126



Blinky Palermo
Ohne Titel (Untitled), 1973
Oil on canvas over wood
3 1/2 x 88 3/8 x 1 9/16 inches
8.9 x 224.5 x 4 cm
Signed, dated, and inscribed verso
Catalogue Raisonné No. 162
PALBL0129



Blinky Palermo
Osten-Westen III (East-West III), 1976
Acrylic on steel in two (2) parts
39 1/2 x 39 1/2 inches (each)
100.3 x 100.3 cm
39 1/2 x 79 inches (overall)
100.3 x 200.7 cm
Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso
Catalogue Raisonné No. 196
Private Collection
PALBL0130



Blinky Palermo

White Wing, 1974-1975

Protective wood paint and mixed media on wood with acrylic on aluminum

119 7/8 x 35 1/16 x 1 15/16 inches (overall)

304.5 x 89.1 x 4.9 cm

Signed, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 173

Private Collection

PALBL0127



Blinky Palermo

Objekt mit Wasserwaage

(Object with Spirit Level), 1969-1973

Rustproof paint, muslin, found level, and press board

21 3/8 x 53 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches

54.3 x 135.9 x 4.4 cm

Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 163

PALBL0131



Blinky Palermo

Ohne Titel (Untitled), 1973

Primer, oil, fabric, and wood

98 7/8 x 26 3/8 x 3 5/8 inches

251 x 67 x 9.3 cm

Signed, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 161

Private Collection

PALBL0116



Blinky Palermo

Ohne Titel (Untitled), ca. 1974

Oil on wood

9 11/16 x 22 3/16 x 3/4 inches

24.6 x 56.4 x 1.9 cm

Catalogue Raisonné No. 170

Private Collection

PALBL0134



Blinky Palermo

Ohne Titel (für Thordes)

(Untitled [for Thordes]), 1966

Casein and muslin on wood

8 7/8 x 17 7/8 x 3/4 inches

22.5 x 45.4 x 1.9 cm

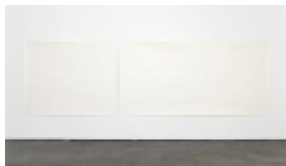
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Catalogue Raisonné No. 44

Private Collection

PALBL0133

North Gallery



Blinky Palermo

I¹ und I² (I¹ and I²), 1974

Pencil on paper in two (2) parts

72 1/4 x 93 1/2 inches (I¹)

183.5 x 237.5 cm

72 1/4 x 150 inches (I²)

183.5 x 381 cm

72 1/4 x 243 1/2 inches (overall)

183.5 x 618.5 cm

Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 440

Private Collection

PALBL0135



Blinky Palermo

II¹ und II² (II¹ and II²), 1974

Pencil on paper in two (2) parts

72 1/4 x 93 3/4 inches (II¹)

183.5 x 238.1 cm

72 1/4 x 147 7/8 inches (II²)

183.5 x 375.6 cm

72 1/4 x 231 5/8 inches (overall)

183.5 x 588.3 cm

Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 441

Private Collection

PALBL0136



Blinky Palermo

III¹ und III² (III¹ and III²), 1974

Pencil on paper in two (2) parts

72 1/4 x 86 inches (III¹)

183.5 x 218.4 cm

72 1/4 x 179 3/4 inches (III²)

183.5 x 456.6 cm

72 1/4 x 265 3/4 inches (overall)

183.5 x 675 cm

Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 442

Private Collection

PALBL0137



Blinky Palermo

IV¹ und IV² (IV¹ and IV²), 1974

Pencil on paper in two (2) parts

72 1/4 x 102 1/2 inches (IV¹)

183.5 x 260.4 cm

72 1/4 x 185 1/2 inches (IV²)

183.5 x 471.2 cm

72 1/4 x 288 inches (overall)

183.5 x 731.5 cm

Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 443

Private Collection

PALBL0138



Blinky Palermo

Triptych VI¹ - VI³, 1974

Pencil on paper in three (3) parts

72 1/16 x 72 1/16 inches (each)

183 x 183 cm

72 1/16 x 216 3/16 inches (overall)

183 x 549.1 cm

Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 447

Private Collection

PALBL0139



Blinky Palermo

Ohne Titel (1) (Untitled [1]), 1974

Pencil on paper

72 1/4 x 72 1/2 inches

183.5 x 184.2 cm

Signed, titled, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue Raisonné No. 448

Private Collection

PALBL0140



Blinky Palermo

Holz Parallelogramm

(Wood Parallelogram), 1974

Varnished wood

35 9/16 x 22 1/4 x 2 inches

90.3 x 56.5 x 5.1 cm

Signed, dated, and inscribed verso

Catalogue raisonné No. 172

PALBL0132