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Charlotte Posenenske
April 29 - June 17, 2017
Opening April 28

On the occasion of Berlin's Gallery Weekend, Mehdi Chouakri is pleased to inaugurate two new gallery spaces in the Charlottenburg district – Fasanenplatz and Mommsenstrasse – with a two-part exhibition of Charlotte Posenenske: The show at Fasanenplatz is focussing on her abstract sculptures series from 1967, whilst works on paper from the 1950s are presented in the gallery on Mommsenstrasse.

Eight preliminary sketches Posenenske made in 1957 for a series of wall paintings (commissioned for the Johannes Gutenberg school in Hainstadt/ Odenwald near Frankfurt) will be shown at our Mommsenstrasse space. While those large site-specific paintings have meanwhile been destroyed, the original color designs from 1957 survived in the artist's archives. Presented for the first time in Germany, they combine basic geometrical shapes and lines, reflecting a kind of constructivist language. Each of them stands for a particular educational aspect – be it for music, physics or mathematics. These collages are accompanied by works on paper related to different architectural projects the artist was involved with, such as the Sindlingen cultural center and others.

The exhibition at Fasanenplatz will feature a range of sculptures from 1967. That year Posenenske created several series of modular works in an attempt to initiate a dialogue between the surrounding architecture and the user (a term she liked to describe the beholder). These "Series B Reliefs" consist of aluminium and steel sheets, declined in a variety of elementary forms and primary colors, whilst the "Series C" repeats exactly the same geometric form. This aspect of Posenenske's oeuvre clearly shows her fascination for a strategic concept of repetition, standardization and mass-production. Her works are manufactured accordingly.

Once a student of Willy Baumeister, Posenenske started her career as a stage designer. Her approach to painting is interwoven with abstract spatial concepts such as suprematism and constructivism, which found echo in post-war architecture. Her palette knife paintings from the 1950s developed into the Relief series, the color strokes changing into colorful metallic shapes, abstract pictures that can be freely composed by the one who installs the works. This audience-oriented approach made Posenenske one of the first artists to create participative art.

Charlotte Posenenske (1930-1985) lived and worked between Wiesbaden, Stuttgart and Frankfurt. Forthcoming exhibitions of her works include the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, MI (April – October 2017) and Dia Foundation, Beacon NY (2018). Her works were most recently presented at Tate Modern, London (2016), Mamco, Geneva (2016), Chinati Foundation, Marfa TX (2015), Museum für moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2013), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2010).

During Gallery Weekend, works from the "Vierkantrohre D" series will be on view in the exhibition "Collected Attitudes" at Haubrok Foundation (April 29 – July 17, 2017).