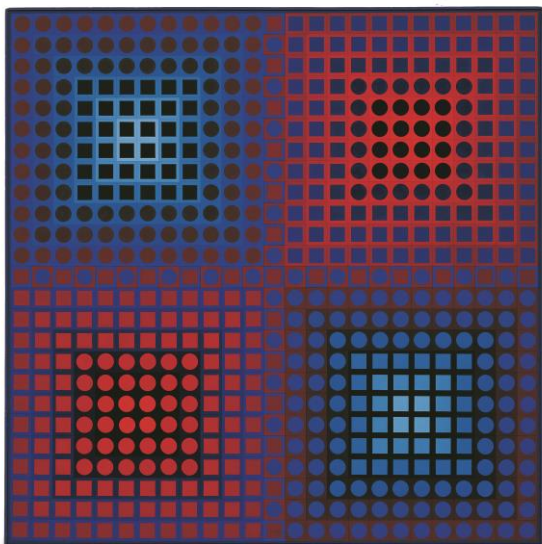


[E]MOTION

Op Art, Kinetic Art and Light Art in the Würth Collection

Art Forum Würth Capena



Victor Vasarely
EG-I
1967
Würth Collection, Inv. 5723

“Nothing opposes the eye more than the facts with which it becomes aware of itself”.
(Werner Spies, 1968)

After the presentation of “[E]MOTION. Op Art, Kinetic Art and Light Art in the Würth Collection” in 2015 at the Kunsthalle Würth in Schwäbisch Hall, the exhibition makes a stop at the Art Forum Würth Capena.

With 35 works from the Würth Collection, the exhibition covers a time span extending from 1953 to 2012, and delves into one of the most interesting areas of alternative art in the 20th century, the triad of Op Art, Kinetic Art and Light Art. Three interconnected artistic trends that developed simultaneously, they are represented here by the works of 24 artists: Yaacov Agam, Josef Albers, Alexander Calder, Omar Carreño, Carlos Cruz-Diez, Lucio Fontana, Karl Gerstner, Gun Gordillo, Hans Hartung, Auguste Herbin, Patrick Hughes, Norbert Huwer, Robert Jacobsen, František Kupka, Clyde Lynds, François Morellet, Darío Pérez-Flores, Lothar

ART FORUM **WÜRTH** CAPENA

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Quinte, Niki de Saint Phalle and Jean Tinguely, Jesús Rafael Soto, Anton Stankowski, Günther Uecker, and Victor Vasarely.

Research into Op Art, Kinetic Art and Light Art ran parallel to the visual and plastic arts, immediately capturing the interest of artists from the onset, but it was in the late 1950s and 1960s, as the world was becoming industrialised and the social structure changing, that these forms played a leading role in artistic practices.

Using advanced materials and technologies, industrial mechanisms and structures, the artists sought connections between the world and art, between the work's functionality and its aesthetic value.

"Kinetic" artists focused their studies on vision, optical phenomena and light, with the intention of involving the viewer on perceptual and psychological levels rather than formal or emotional ones, maintaining that art is only art when the viewer directly perceives it or experiences it.

[E]MOTION is conceived as a journey through the twists and turns of Kinetic Art, Op Art and Light Art, which had all the attributes for directly involving the viewer, exploring the potential of light, space, colour, perspective and, above all, movement. Numerous variations are presented in this exhibition: the illusion of movement with the simple optical activation of a surface in Victor Vasarely's work; the physical illusion produced by the viewer which changes the perspective of the works and directly influences their content, in the works of Yaacov Agam, Patrick Hughes and Jesús Rafael Soto; the actual movement of the object driven by a form of natural energy in Alexander Calder's works, the mechanics of Jean Tinguely or the electrical works of Omar Carreño.

The exhibition begins, on the lower floor, with pieces by several artists who inspired the founding theories behind these movements, such as Josef Albers, František Kupka, Auguste Herbine, Alexander Calder and Lucio Fontana. These are followed by a series of works by the defining artists of Op Art, such as Victor Vasarely, Karl Gerstner and Rafael Soto. Lastly, arriving at François Morellet, founder of GRAV and a master of Kinetic Art and Light Art. A separate section is dedicated to the English contemporary artist Patrick Hughes, creator of "reverspective" and a great illusionist. On the ground floor, the exhibition brings together works by artists who experimented with various possibilities in movement, light and space, such as Carlos Cruz-Diez, Günther Uecker and Omar Carreño, as well as one of the most important Kinetic Art works in the Würth Collection, "L'Illumination" by Jean Tinguely and Niki de Saint Phalle.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Swiridoff with a foreword by C. Sylvia Weber and Beate Elsen-Schwedler, respectively director and assistant director of the Würth Collection, and an essay by Werner Spies, former director of the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and one of the most influential art historians of the 20th century.

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The public opening of the Art Forum Würth Capena is subject to the government measures to contain the pandemic. Reservations are mandatory and any visitors to the exhibition must comply with the regulations in force for the containment of Covid-19.

Art Forum Würth Capena

Admission is free and by reservation only

For reservations:

email: art.forum@wuerth.it

telephone: 06/90103800, 06/90103801

Public opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday open only for events and creative workshops

Closed on Sundays and holidays

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