

Press Release

Steven Parrino

Nihilism Is Love

21 February—17 May 2020

Steven Parrino (1958–2005) was one of the most influential artists of the New York art scene since the late 1980s. Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein is mounting the first comprehensive retrospective of his work in the German-speaking world.

Predominantly a painter, in his oeuvre he developed a unique visual idiom that, on the one hand, draws on various subcultural movements and, on the other, displays clear references to the history of visual art of the twentieth century and beyond. Parrino's work is defined by an unconditional will to be free that stems from American biker culture and is also influenced by punk rock existentialism.

At the same time, Parrino contradicts the “anything goes” attitude of postmodern trends in the 1980s. Authenticity and the will to form combine in his artistic approach to create an innovative power of outstanding quality that is also manifested in his installations, music, films and writings. Borrowings from underground comics and the “Kustom Kulture” of the motorcycle world with its specific symbolic language are the main themes of his drawings in the early years. His monochrome painting in the tradition of “Radical Painting” evolved in parallel. After the mid-1980s, Parrino's artistic and ideological convictions began to gel into a characteristic method: the artist would first paint canvases in monochrome colour, take them off the stretcher and then remount them in some modified form (twisted, wound, crumpled, etc.) so as to create a new and usually three-dimensional “picture”.

Based on five sets of themes, *Steven Parrino. Nihilism Is Love* recontextualises the artist's work at Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein: a central narrative of the exhibition is the death of painting as a motif and its revival based on various social and subcultural themes. In the face of rapid upheavals in recent decades, painting has increasingly been deprived of its traditional role as a pre-eminent medium of the avant-gardes. For the first time, this show illustrates the significance of Parrino's multifaceted oeuvre for the further development of painting.



KUNSTMUSEUM LIECHTENSTEIN

A production of Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, curated by Friedemann Malsch and Fabian Flückiger. The exhibition will be accompanied by a comprehensive publication.

Opening

Thursday, 20 February 2020, from 6pm

Public guided tours

Thursday, 5 March 2020, 6pm

Thursday, 14 May 2020, 6pm

Take Away (short public guided tours)

Thursday, 26 March 2020, 12.30pm

Thursday, 30 April 2020, 12.30pm

Side programme

Thursday, 27 February 2020, 6pm

Museum Film Club

The Terror

by Roger Corman, Francis Ford Coppola, Jack Nicholson, USA 1963, 91'

Dementia 13

by Francis Ford Coppola, USA 1963, 75'

Thursday, 12 March 2020, 6pm

Guided Tour

with Rolf Ricke, former gallery owner

In cooperation with Liechtensteinische Kunstgesellschaft.

Donnerstag, 26 March 2020, 6pm

Museum Film Club

Point Blank

by John Boorman, USA 1967, 91'

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ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, 5 April 2020, 11am

Guided Tour “One Hour”

Steven Parrino. Frankenstein

with Fabian Flückiger

Sunday, 17 May 2020, 11am

Talk

with Konrad Bitterli, Director of Kunst Museum Winterthur, and Pierre Huber, gallery owner
and collector

In cooperation with Liechtensteinische Kunstgesellschaft.

Press contact

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