

SKARSTEDT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GERMAN PAINTINGS

GEORG BASELITZ: *REMIX*

MARTIN KIPPENBERGER: *FRED THE FROG*

ALBERT OEHLLEN: *GREY PAINTINGS*

OPENING RECEPTION:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 6-8PM

20 East 79th Street



Skarstedt is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by Georg Baselitz, Martin Kippenberger and Albert Oehlen. *German Paintings* is comprised of three solo presentations keenly focused on a series from each artist's oeuvre: *Remix* by Georg Baselitz, *Fred the Frog* by Martin Kippenberger, and Albert Oehlen's *Grey Paintings*. While each artist clearly conveys their own diverse objectives, these three bodies of work, ranging from 1989 to 2010, demonstrate a firm commitment to the practice of painting and illustrate the medium's extensive formal and conceptual potential. *German Paintings* will be on view at Skarstedt's Upper East Side gallery (20 East 79th Street) from September 8 – October 29, 2016.

Throughout his career, Georg Baselitz has emphasized the physicality of paint and form, particularly through the inversion of his subject matter. Baselitz engaged in a dialogue with the works of his past in his *Remix* paintings, working from photographs of his earlier paintings. Familiar imagery, such as the eagle and orange eater, are recontextualized in these bold, expressively colored compositions, broadening the artist's exploration of new technical approaches to painting as well as his own personal narrative.

Kippenberger's *Fred the Frog* series, first exhibited at Galerie Max Hetzler in 1991, advances his witty commentary on the role of the artist, dissolving the disparities between high and low art. Rife with variations on the crucifixion motif, Kippenberger also incorporates frogs, beer mugs, and eggs into the compositions, making no distinction between the sacred and profane.¹ In *Ohne Titel (Aus der Serie 'Fred the Frog')* (1989-1990), the crucifix within the letter "G" is no more notable than the nearby splattered fried egg.

¹ Capitain, Gisela, Fiorito, Regina and Franzen, Lisa. *Martin Kippenberger: Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings, Volume 3, 1987-1992*, Cologne, Walther Koenig, 2016, p. 153.



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Instead of settling in one celebrated style, Albert Oehlen prefers to push the boundaries of painting, constantly experimenting, to contribute to the dialogue of art history: “All I can tell you is that if I have to decide whether to make a beautiful painting or a new painting, I will choose new every time. That’s what the job of painting is for me. I want to make something that has not been there before.”² While he is aware of his influences, such as Gerhard Richter, in his *Grey Paintings*, Oehlen transcends beyond precedents in these gestural works. He explores the spectrum of grey further, provoking a heightened craving for color.³

Image Credit: Georg Baselitz, *Gute Hoffnung*, 2010, oil on canvas, 106.3 x 81.5 inches (270 x 207 cm.) © 2016 Georg Baselitz.

About Skarstedt

Skarstedt (20 E. 79th Street, New York, NY) was founded in 1994 by Per Skarstedt to mount historical exhibitions by Contemporary European and American artists that had become the core of his specialty in Sweden and New York in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The New York gallery's program focuses on artists of the late Twentieth Century whose work explores concepts such as representation, authorship, identity, and sexual politics across a wide-range of media. Skarstedt's unique relationship with artists allows it to present exhibitions both on the primary and secondary markets, creating a dialogue between the generations.

Skarstedt opened its London space at 23 Old Bond Street in 2012 with the inaugural exhibition *Andy Warhol: The American Indian*. Skarstedt London presents exhibitions and publications devoted to the gallery's established area of expertise while also seeking to evolve and expand its focus. Skarstedt is committed to sharing both its aesthetic perspective and philosophical approach through high-quality exhibitions and collaborations with top international museums and private collections.

Skarstedt opened its Chelsea space at 550 W. 21st Street in May 2014 with the inaugural exhibition *Klein and Warhol: Fire and Oxidation Paintings*, adding to the gallery's existing locations on New York's Upper East Side and in London. The additional gallery space enables Skarstedt to expand on its core program of museum-quality, historically researched exhibitions from modern and contemporary masters.

The gallery works with the following artists and artists' estates: Justin Adian, Francis Bacon, John Baldessari, Georg Baselitz, George Condo, Carroll Dunham, Eric Fischl, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, Lucio Fontana, Günther Förg, Keith Haring, Jenny Holzer, Mike Kelley, Martin Kippenberger, Yves Klein, Barbara Kruger, Louise Lawler, Sherrie Levine, Robert Mapplethorpe, Juan Muñoz, Cady Noland, Albert Oehlen, Richard Prince, David Salle, Thomas Schütte, Cindy Sherman, Rosemarie Trockel, Andy Warhol, Franz West, and Christopher Wool.

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² O'Hagan, Sean. “Albert Oehlen: The Change Artist”, *W*, May 15, 2016.

³ Rubinstein, Raphael. “The Accidental Abstractionist”, *Art in America*, June 1, 2015.

