

Spotlight | Jacqueline de Jong

04 October 2019 - 06 October 2019

For Frieze Masters 2019, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery is delighted to present, Please not! a solo presentation of work by Jacqueline de Jong, a key figure of the 1960s European avant-garde. This will be the first solo presentation of her work in the UK ahead of an exhibition at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, opening in November this year. The booth will comprise three early paintings made in 1968, the same year that de Jong participated in the May protests, and four works from the 'Chronique d'Amsterdam' series (1970-73). All of the works have been highlighted in her retrospective at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2019).

During 1968 de Jong painted vibrant and erotically charged paintings in her Paris studio. This same year she became closely involved in the May '68 protests, producing student protests for the movement. The three paintings of this period shown at Frieze Masters draw on this febrile period of sexual revolution and political rebellion. Body parts and unshapely limbs in thick impasto and strong colour merge with areas of thinly painted geometric shapes, stripes and dots. The figures shift between the humorous and the grotesque offering a fluid perspective of gender and sexuality.

Following the uprisings in Paris, de Jong spent her time in Paris and Amsterdam, traveling between the two cities regularly. The 'Chronique d'Amsterdam' series (1970-3) reflects the artist's itinerant lifestyle and consider displacement and disconnection. Comprising freestanding diptychs, on one side are diary entries handwritten in English, recording the banal and explicit events of her life, whilst on the other are painted scenarios that incorporate sex, violence and popular culture. De Jong used to fold the paintings in two and carry them with a handle, thereby creating a portable studio and personal diary. By dissolving the lines between art, life, high and low culture, the works critique popular forms of entertainment and aim to revolutionise everyday life.

About the artist

Jacqueline de Jong (b. 1939 in Hengelo, Netherlands) lives and works in Amsterdam and the Bourbonnais, France. Throughout a career spanning six decades de Jong's work has explored the violence, banality, eroticism and humour of human interaction. Since the 1960s, she has developed a diverse practice that encompasses painting at its core, alongside drawing, sculpture, jewellery, artist books and printmaking.

De Jong was one of the two female members of the Situationist International (SI), with close ties to its founding members, Guy Debord and Asger Jorn. She was also closely involved with German collective, Gruppe SPUR.

When visual artists were expelled from SI, de Jong founded The Situationist Times, one of the most important and experimental journals of the post-war period. As editor and publisher, she produced six editions between 1962 and 1967. The publication offered opportunity for collaboration between writers, poets and visual artists including Noel Arnaud, Jacques Prévert, Anton Ehrenzweig, Franciszka and Stefan Themerson, Max Bucaille, Aldo van Eyck,

Lech Tomaszewski and Asger Jorn.

Earlier this year, the French Ministry for Culture, together with the AWARE Prize for Women artists, presented de Jong with the Outstanding Merit Prize. Recent institutional solo exhibitions include Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Museum Jorn, Silkeborg (2019); Musée Les Abattoirs, Toulouse; Malmö Konsthall (2018) and Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2012). Her archive was acquired by the Beinecke Library of Rare Books and Manuscripts, Yale University in 2011. Upcoming exhibitions include Radio-Activity at Lenbachhaus, Munich and She-Bam Pow POP Wizz! at MAMAC, Nice (2020).

A major new publication exploring The Situationist Times in depth, These are Situationist Times! An Inventory of Reproductions, Deformations, Modifications, Derivations, and Transformations (Torpedo Press, Oslo) was launched this year at Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam and will be highlighted at MoMA PS1 during New York Art Book Fair (2019).

Collections include Centre Pompidou, Paris; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Rachofsky Collection, Dallas; Cobra Museum for Modern Art, Amstelveen; Musée les Abattoirs, Toulouse; Museum Arnhem, Arnhem; Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Museum Communale di Ascona, Ascona; Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem; Museum Jorn, Silkeborg; Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo; Kunstmuseum Göteborg; Lenbachhaus, Munich, Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania and MOCA Toronto.

De Jong's first solo exhibition in the UK will be presented at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery 28 November 2019-18 January 2020.