

26.09.2020–14.03.2021, ZKM Atria 1+2, 2nd floor
New Exhibitions in September

Ed and Urs Kiender: Roll-Objects. From Space-Pictures to Rolling Spaces
and
Stephan von Huene: What's wrong with Art?

One century, two exhibitions, three artists, and a myriad pioneering artistic achievements. Starting on September 26, 2020, the ZKM will present wide-ranging and multifarious works by three artists who accomplished nothing less than pioneering work with their media installations and exerted a formative influence on the European avant-garde of the 1960s in a very special way: *Ed and Urs Kiender: Roll-Objects. From Space-Pictures to Rolling Spaces* and *Stephan von Huene: What's wrong with Art?*

The ZKM presents around 60 works from all creative periods of the artists in *Ed and Urs Kiender: Roll-Objects. From Space-Pictures to Rolling Spaces*, which is curated by Frederik Schikowski. It is the first solo show of Ed Kiender's work since 1968 that for the first time highlights the influence of Ursula, or rather Urs Kiender. Together, Ed (1925–1996) and Urs Kiender (*1936) created in the few years between 1969 and 1973 an extraordinarily diverse oeuvre that ranges from Art Informel and monochrome paintings, Op Art and Pop Art, to media and process art. An element shared by all the works is the »exit from the image« (Laszlo Glozer), a significant feature in the 1960s: their expansion into the surrounding space, movement, and audience participation. The Kienders' three-dimensional »Raumbild« (Space picture) (1961) was one of the first German environments that visitors were able to enter. The roll, made of cut-up canvas in varied designs, was the Kienders' trademark. With their roll-objects the artists also created action equipment like the »Laufrolle« rolling space that visitors were invited to use. The Kienders' last group of works was a series of photo panels that engaged with social »roles« and patterns of behavior. The topics they addressed, like the status of women or social conformity, are issues that have lost none of their topicality and are still on the agenda today.

On the exhibition see
zkm.de/en/ed-and-urs-kiender

Stephan von Huene (1932–2000) was one of the 20th century founders of sound art and media art. From the late 1960s, he constructed complex acoustic and kinetic installations in which he explored sound and language. In his mechanical and technical sculptures, which developed increasingly into interactive sound installations, he investigated acoustic phenomena and the functioning of perception based on his knowledge of linguistics and behavioral research.

In the works »What's wrong with Art?«, »Blaue Bücher« [Blue Books], and »Eingangsfragen – Ausgangsfragen« [Entry Questions – Exit Questions] from the late 1990s, which are on show in the ZKM exhibition, Stephan von Huene engages with different modes of talking about art. The artworks present the

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Location
Atrium 1+2, 2. OG

Press Contact
Dominika Szope
Spokesperson
Tel: 0049 (0) 721 / 8100 – 1220

E-Mail: presse@zkm.de
www.zkm.de/presse

ZKM | Center for Art and Media
Karlsruhe
Lorenzstraße 19
76135 Karlsruhe

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misunderstandings of the audience and contrast their speechlessness with the intellectual speech bubbles and self-important language of art criticism, art education, and art history. With his critique Stephan von Huene pleads for a linguistically appropriate and unbiased approach to art.

Von Huene's sound installation »Blaue Bücher« [Blue Books] was acquired by the ZKM in 2015 for its collection with financial support from the Kulturstiftung der Länder, the Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States. Further key artworks as well as large parts of the artist's estate and his library were donated to the ZKM. This makes the ZKM the most important place for preserving and researching the oeuvre of this »artist with a pioneering spirit« (György Ligeti).

An essay by Yannis Hadjinicolaou about the artworks on show by Stephan von Huene will be published to accompany the exhibition, which is curated by Philipp Ziegler.

With the generous support of

Kulturstiftung der Länder / Cultural Foundation of the German Federal States

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On the exhibition, see:
zkm.de/en/whats-wrong-with-art

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