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Günter Haese

Space in Motion – Objects from 1962 to 2006 January 25 to March 30, 2019



"Untitled" Brass and phosphorous bronze 2004 "Before Baku" Brass and phosphorous bronze 1984

The God of Small Things

Galerie Thomas presents Günter Haese, the Master of Delicate Metal Objects

Munich, January 15, 2019

It is a small miracle that Günter Haese's objects can resist gravity. "In his work, the artist from Kiel explored fragility up to the limits of stability," says gallery owner Raimund Thomas, "but he was not just interested in the movement of his spatial graphics, as he called his objects, but in the dissolution of an order that then restores itself." Without the object tipping over. Galerie Thomas is now presenting 25 works by the artist, who passed away two years ago.

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A Pioneer of his Time

Even though in its uniqueness Günter Haese's work found no artistic companions, let alone imitators, he was a pioneer of his time in art-historical terms. "His graceful, humanscale objects, whose fragile equilibrium rests on even more delicate feet, are based on the contrast between geometry and materials on the one hand, and instability and a seemingly organic appearance on the other," says Thomas. Today Haese is usually grouped with the kinetic artists, although he did not see himself as part of this category. The idea of the organic, self-regulating cycle also spread to science and politics in the 1960s, culminating in the student revolts of 1968.

Inspired by an Alarm Clock

After the war, Günter Haese, who was born on February 18, 1924, studied in Ewald Mataré's master class at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf along with Joseph Beuys, among others. Having trained as a decorative painter, he began creating animal sculptures, and only after several years did he arrive at his unique work by way of monotypes. The spark was an alarm clock that Haese was given, which he took apart. He began laboriously soldering the little steel braids, hooks, springs, and balls with a copper soldering iron and stacking them on top of each other. However, Haese was never a rushed creator; instead, he was an introverted master who approached his works with care.

His success came overnight: Günter Haese had his first solo exhibition at the Ulmer Museum, and his second at MoMA in New York, after the curator at the time saw Haese's works in Ulm and immediately contacted him. Haese's works have been exhibited in numerous major museums around the world and are now part of renowned collections. The fact that his work did not receive this degree of attention until the end of his life may also be due to his contemporary competitors, who stirred up the art world with their bold and colourful works of Pop Art and Op Art.

#günterhaeseatgaleriethomas

About the Gallery

Founded in 1964, Galerie Thomas has become one of the leading galleries for masterpieces of German Expressionism, modernism, and contemporary art. The gallery is located in Munich's art district and has been participating in the following international art fairs for many years: Art Basel, Art Basel Miami Beach, TEFAF Maastricht, Art Cologne, and recently Art Basel Hong Kong. Along with Silke and Raimund Thomas, Heike Grossmann and Jörg Paal serve as directors of the gallery.

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