

## BABY BABY

### Albert Mertz

Selected by Tal R

PRESS RELEASE

**Opening: Friday 31.01 2020 5-8 pm**

Duration: 31.01 – 22.02 2020

“I want to create a situation. Every painting affects the space in which it is located – changes it and is an event that should activate the viewer. A painting should be a kind of hell machine that ticks activity, unrest, out in the space – and not just any other divertissement.”

Albert Mertz  
*Pejlinger '66*  
Louisiana, 1966

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, one of Denmark's most important and groundbreaking artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century would have turned 100 years. This we mark with the exhibition *BABY BABY*.

The works on display at the exhibition are all created by Albert Mertz (1920-1990), but the selection and staging are done by one of our time's most significant artists: Tal R.

With a starting point in the comprehensive and diverse material, Tal R has not only created an exhibition but a total installation that might best be described as an actual hell machine, that unconventionally actualizes Albert Mertz's artistic practice in an anarchistic and wondrous way. Obviously, Tal R and Albert Mertz rhyme with each other.

The exhibition's works mainly originate from two important private collections: partly from Susanne Mertz's very comprehensive collection, partly from a large Mertz collection that belongs to the Danish foundation Kunst På Arbejde that was co-founded by Knud W. Jensen in 1954. Galleri Tom Christoffersen wishes to direct a great thanks to Susanne Mertz and director of KPA, Anna Krogh, for benevolently lending out the works.

We wish to direct a special thanks to Tal R.

**Albert Mertz** (1920-1990) was an utmost diverse and respected artist who worked with numerous genres – from figurative painting to conceptual art. Mertz already debuted at the age of 13 in 1933 and was admitted to The Royal Danish Academy of Arts in 1936. In the years 1979-1990, he functioned as a professor of painting at the same academy. Mertz was and is recognized for his critical practice, his experimental films and for his long work as a visual artist. He was co-founder of Linien II in 1947, exhibited at Grønningen and Den Frie and he represented Denmark posthumously at the 21st Sao Paulo Biennale, Brazil, in 1991. Albert Mertz is represented at all large Danish art museums, at Moderna Museet in Stockholm and Nasjonalgalleriet in Oslo, and in large collections such as Daimler Art Collection, Germany. He received both the Eckersberg Medal (1964) and the Thorvaldsen Medal (1988). The common denominator for Albert Mertz's artistic practice is the showdown with the traditional concept of art and his unconventional and versatile work methods which have given him a very special spot in Danish Art History. On the occasion of Mertz's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sorø Kunstmuseum and Holstebro Kunstmuseum arrange a large solo exhibition opening in the autumn 2020.