

## ***Suspended space boxes***

*By Albert Mertz*

**Opening: Friday 12.1. 2018 5-7 pm**

Duration: 12.1. – 10.2. 2018

Produced in 1968 the dangly *Suspended Space Boxes* marks a turning point in Albert Mertz' work. This is the year before he reduces his palette to a consistently red and blue one. Leaving out evident brushstrokes in a revolt against abstract expressionism, Mertz is sticking to the painting in order to disobey its dogmas. "Is a picture not hanging on the wall still a picture?", Mertz asks himself in his notebooks. To him the art work's exalted status on a gallery wall is not of importance. Rather, he is interested in the "spirit" he wishes to awaken in the audience, he writes.

*Suspended Space Boxes* ruptures the three-dimensionality of the exhibition space, and even though being detached from the wall they insist on the flatness of the painting as one of its aesthetic strengths.

Produced two decades later, eleven gouaches are hanging along the wall. They give an impression of how consequently Mertz took on his red/blue signature afterwards.

**Albert Mertz** (1920 - 1990) had his exhibition debut only thirteen years old in 1933 and started at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 1936. Several years later he became a teaching professor at the same institution from 1979 until his death in 1990. Mertz is recognized for his art critics, his experimental films and in his work as a painter. He was co-founder of the Linien II in 1947, showed with the artists associations Grønningen and Den Frie and represented Denmark posthumously at the 21st Sao Paulo Biennale, Brazil in 1991. Albert Mertz is represented in all major Danish art museums, in Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden, The National Gallery, Oslo Norway and in major collections such as Daimler Art Collection. He received both Eckersberg Medal (1964) and Thorvaldsen Medal (1988).