

# Geertsen versus Mertz

## **Ib Geertsen & Albert Mertz**

Curated by Mikkel Amby

**Opening: Friday 26.04. 2019 5-7 pm**

Duration: 26.04. – 18.05. 2019

Ib Geertsen and Albert Mertz are two of the 20th century's great figures in Danish art. As founders of the art association Linien II (1947-1952) the two artists were from the 1940's and onwards pioneers of concrete art. Along with the separate exhibition 100 which exclusively presents works by Ib Geertsen, the attention in 2.RUM is directed towards the relationship between Geertsen and Mertz. As the years go by, the interest in both artists is seemingly increased in Denmark as well as abroad. Despite of the fact that the two artists' practices could seem to take on different directions, the connection between Geertsen and Mertz is intact – two researchers always seeking towards the concrete imagery.

**Ib Geertsen** (1919 - 2009) has exhibited at ARoS – Aarhus Museum of Art, Aarhus; Galleri Tom Christoffersen, Copenhagen; Maison du Danemark, Paris; Art Centre Silkeborg Bad, Silkeborg; Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, Copenhagen; Blaafarværet, Åmot; Esbjerg Museum of Art, Esbjerg; Randers Museum of Art, Randers; Art Museum of Vestsjælland, Sorø; The National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, among others. In 1947 he was one of the founders of the artist group Linien II. Geertsen's work is represented in several museums among others The National Gallery of Denmark og ARoS - Aarhus Museum of Art and he has done lots of commissions and public art. Ib Geertsen has received the Royal Danish Academy's finest honours Thorvaldsen Medaillen (1991) and Eckersberg Medaillen (1978).

**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 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 Medaillen (1964) and Thorvaldsen Medaillen (1988).