

Herbert Zangs

Herbert Zangs (1924 - 2003 Krefeld, DE) Zangs is best known for his monochromatic abstract works and is considered part of the *French Informel* movement in his rejection of geometric abstraction for a more intuitive approach to art-making.

Zangs' work can be divided into several stylistic groups, such as the *Ver-Weiβungen* ('whitening'), the *Rechenzeichen-Collagen* ('mathematical signs collages'), the *Scheibenwischer-Bilder* ('windscreen wiper pictures'), *Pinselabwicklungen* ('brush processing') and *Peitschenbilder* ('whip pictures').

Zangs began his studies at the Düsseldorf Art Academy with Joseph Beuys in 1945, just months after the end of World War II, where he had served in the armed forces and been a prisoner of war. The experiences Zangs had as a pilot would have a great influence on his work, including a plane crash over Scandinavia which left him lost and covered in snow for three days before he was found. When Zangs woke up in hospital following the incident, the first thing he saw was the white virginal snow of the landscape. This event has been attributed to the conception of his his *Verweiβungen* [whitenings] series: collages and paintings entirely covered in ash white paint, that could also resemble objects found in the rubble after the destruction of war.

Zangs was awarded the Art Prize of the city of Krefeld in 1952, followed in 1958 by the Franklin Institute of America prize and, in 1962, the Europe Prize for Painting awarded by the Ostende Biennale. Restless by nature, Zangs then spent a few years in the south of France (1962-65), followed by numerous trips abroad, before finally settling in his native Krefeld in the early 1980s.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Herbert Zangs: The Freezepoint Of Painting*, ZKM Center For Art & Media, Karlsruhe, DE (2018); *From The Collection: Europe 1960 - Azimuth, Concrete Art, Nouveau Réalisme, Zero*, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, LI (2017); *What About The Color Pink? Do You Like Pink?* Geukens & De Vil, Knokke, BE (2016); *Herbert Zangs: Moderation Leads To Freedom*, Berthold Pott, Cologne, DE (2016); *Herbert Zangs*, Kunstverein Villa Wessel, Iserlohn, DE (2014). Group exhibitions include: *Nice to See You! 160 Works from the Collection*, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, LI (2015); *Black & White*, Galerie Leu, Munich, DE (2014); *Adventsausstellung*, Galerie Bagnato, Konstanz, DE (2014); *Dahlhausen Viral*, Kunstmuseum Ahlen, DE (2014).