

On the occasion of its fifth anniversary next September, the Blueproject Foundation presents the collective exhibition "Still Blue", with works by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Daniel Buren, Lucio Fontana, Howard Hodgkin, Jörg Immendorff, Yves Klein, A. R. Penck, Mark Tansey and Andy Warhol



- **The opening will be on the 21st of June at 19h30, and the exhibition will be on view in from the 22nd of June to the 4th of November 2018 in *Il Salotto*.**
- The exhibition features 11 artworks from various European private collections.
- On the same date, until the 19th of August, the Blueproject Foundation officially opens the call for artists for its 2019 residency and exhibition programme. We will select 2 *exhibition projects* and 1 *performance project* to be shown in the *Sala Project*.

About the exhibition

The exhibition "Still Blue", curated by the Foundation's artistic team (Renato della Poeta, Pedro Torres and Cristina López Morcuende), features for the second time some of the emblematic works included in the exhibition "Blue. Tribute to the Invisible", the Foundation's inaugural show held on the 26th of September 2013.

This new show adds works by Daniel Buren and Yves Klein to the series, which features artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol and Lucio Fontana. While the colour blue remains the core of the exhibition, the word "still" that was added to the title summarizes some of the reasons behind the current exhibition: the history of painting, in which the *still life*, practically a synonym of painting during centuries, was out-dated by the avant-gardes and a new kind of unconventional art; the *stillness*, the peace, tranquillity and silence evoked by the contemplation of the colour blue; *still* in the sense of remaining, staying still, (re)affirming oneself in the present, the way the Foundation is doing through its trajectory, which is intimately bound to what has been, is and will remain the symbol of the invisible: blue.

A colour that is dear to the project's founder, who chose it as a tribute to her father and as the theme of the inaugural exhibition, accurately described by Anna Manubens (independent curator), in her text for the catalogue, as "the unconfessed blind and gravitatory point of the Blueproject Foundation". Both that first exhibition and the current one pay tribute to the invisible, through artworks selected from private collections close to the Foundation.

Amongst the artists, the presence of Yves Klein (France, 1928-1962) was essential. For him "blue is the invisible becoming visible". In this case, his renowned blue IKB (International Klein Blue) coats a Venus that dominates the space and seems to rule over the other pieces with its absent gaze. The exhibition constitutes a conjunction of autonomous universes, or of complementary instruments within a symphony whose vibrations certainly escape the visible range. For Klein "blue has no dimension".

Many other artists, philosophers and writers have approached the colour blue and tried to define or capture through words what really is a perception (which provokes a sensation). Kandinsky said that it "calls men to

infinity and awakens a longing for the pure”, while for Goethe it “is, so to say, a precious nothing”.

A nothing which surely fills the space of *Il Salotto*, with shapes, shades and concepts which engage the spectator and resonate with each other. Penk’s symbolism echoes the graphics of Jean-Michel Basquiat, with its written or crossed-out words, in between readable and unreadable. It also shares with Jörg Immendorff a visual formalism which plays with the indecipherable and challenges the viewer to understand shapes and symbols. More (hyper)recognizable are the icons of US culture, with Mickey Mouse and the Statue of Liberty, portrayed by another pop icon, Andy Warhol.

On the other hand, Mark Tansey’s scenes lead us into a dreamy world, into other spaces and times filled by a blue light which misleads perception. We find a similar play of light and a more direct theatricality in Lucio Fontana, with a work from the sixties, a time when he was looking for a new spatial definition of painting, though his conceptual investigation of the *concetto spaziale* (spatial concept). Here we see a more metaphorical work, but one where the canvas already undergoes a new treatment.

On a more autobiographic note, Howard Hodgkin suggests a minimal gesture: a single brush-stroke heavy with paint, colour and emotion, which, through its title, reveals a place and time that the artist witnessed.

The most recent artwork, and the latest addition to the collection, is that of conceptual artist Daniel Buren. An optic fibre fabric which draws with light the recognizable colour lines with which the artist intervenes on private and public spaces, with different media, suggesting new spatial and architectonic perceptions though visual games with colour.

Publication

For the first exhibition “Blue, Tribute to the invisible”, the foundation published a catalogue with texts by Glòria Guirao, Anna Manubens, Cristian Palazzi, Ivo Bomba and Renato Della Poeta and Aurélien le Genissel, from the foundation’s team. The new exhibition “Still Blue” will be compounded by a special edition in which some guests (artists, curators and collaborators of the foundation during the past five years) will contribute their vision of each work in the exhibition.

Short biographies

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

Jean-Michel Basquiat (December 22, 1960 – August 12, 1988). Basquiat first achieved fame as part of SAMO, an informal graffiti duo who wrote enigmatic epigrams in the cultural hotbed of the Lower East Side of Manhattan during the late 1970s. By the 1980s, he was exhibiting his neo-expressionist paintings in galleries and museums internationally. Basquiat's art focused on "suggestive dichotomies", such as wealth versus poverty, integration versus segregation, and inner versus outer experience. He appropriated poetry, drawing and painting while married text and image, abstraction, figuration with historical information mixed with contemporary critique.

YVES KLEIN

Yves Klein (28 April 1928 – 6 June 1962) was a French artist considered an important figure in post-war European art. He was a leading member of the French artistic movement of Nouveau réalisme. Yves Klein is best known for his trademark ultramarine pigment, which he patented as International Klein Blue in 1961 as he said that blue is beyond dimensions. Starting in the mid-1950s, Klein made retinal blue monochromes and the pigment would also feature prominently in his Anthropometry paintings. Klein's work anticipated Conceptual art, Performance art, and environmental art. Klein produced a series of works that blurred the edges between painting and sculpture. He appropriated plaster casts of famous sculptures, such as the Winged Victory of Samothrace and the Venus de Milo, by painting them International Klein Blue

LUCIO FONTANA

Lucio Fontana (19 February 1899 – 7 September 1968) was an Italian painter, sculptor and theorist of Argentine birth. He is mostly known as the founder of Spatialism. He demonstrated a relentless interest in the relationship between surface and dimensionality. Fontana formulated the theory of Spatialism in a series of manifestos dating from the late 1940s to early 1950s, proposing that matter should be infiltrated by energy in order to generate dimensional, dynamic artistic forms. Fontana implemented this theory by punching holes in the picture plane and slicing through his canvases in order to expose the dimensional space beneath.

HOWARD HODGKIN

Sir Gordon Howard Eliot Hodgkin (6 August 1932 – 9 March 2017) was a British painter and printmaker. His work is most often associated with abstraction, his works veered from figuration to pure abstraction. He became a prominent figure in British art in the 1970s for painting on wooden supports such as drawing boards and door frames instead of

canvas. Using broad, gestural brushstrokes and a vivid palette of contrasting colors that emphasized the rectangular picture plane, Hodgkin defined painting as an object.

ANDY WARHOL

Andy Warhol (born Andrew Warhola; August 6, 1928 – February 22, 1987) was an American artist, director and producer who was a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art. His works explore the relationship between artistic expression, celebrity culture, and advertising that flourished by the 1960s, and span a variety of media, including painting, silkscreening, photography, film, and sculpture.

A.R. PENCK

Ralf Winkler, alias A. R. Penck, (5 October 1939 – 2 May 2017) was a German painter, printmaker, sculptor and jazz drummer. Penck became one of the foremost exponents of new figuration and in the 1980s he became known worldwide for paintings with pictographic, neo-primitivist imagery of human figures and other totemic and neo-primitive forms and patterns. Penck's style fused spontaneous self-expression with restraint, pop cultural and art historical influences with political and social concerns.

JÖRG IMMENDORFF

Jörg Immendorff (June 14, 1945 – May 28, 2007) was a contemporary German painter, sculptor, stage designer and art professor. He was a member of the art movement Neue Wilde. He is known for his dense, bizarre scenes laden with a wide range of symbolic influences pulled from art history, mythology, and German history. Immendorff's work reflects the political and psychological turmoil imbedded in postwar German life and depicts characters from both his personal life and greater culture in chaotic, large-scale oil paintings that borrow staging and composition from theater.

MARK TANSEY

Mark Tansey (born 1949, San Jose, California) is an American painter. Mark Tansey's densely imaginative canvases derive from a labor-intensive composition process. Using a huge trove of collected material, including his own photographs and magazine clippings, Tansey manipulates, crops, combines, and photocopies the forms. His collages serve as studies for large, monochromatic oil paintings of figures and landscapes, whose precise photographic quality is achieved by applying gesso and then washing, brushing, and scraping paint into it. Though they resemble straightforward narrative scenes, the paintings are full of visual puns and references.

DANIEL BUREN

Daniel Buren (born 25 March 1938) is a French conceptual artist but sometimes classified as a Minimalist. Buren is known best for using regular, contrasting colored stripes in an

effort to integrate visual surface and architectural space, notably on historical, landmark architecture. His works are site-specific installations, having a relation to its setting in contrast to prevailing ideas of an autonomous work of art as he abandoned the idea of painting as object and dismissed the importance of authorship He challenged conventional notions of where art can be seen and how it can be understood.

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Open Call

More information and the terms and conditions of our open call at:
<http://www.blueprojectfoundation.org/es/residencias/convocatorias>

Applications are open until the 19th of August 2018. The result of the selection process will be announced on the 27th of september.

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Information and images available at:

<http://www.blueprojectfoundation.org/es/area-de-prensa>

Practical informations:

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Opening times:
From Tuesday to Sunday 10am-8pm