

MEDITATIONS - The Estate of Gerard Verdijk

Grand opening solo exhibition Gerard Verdijk : **MEDITATIONS**

Amsterdam, Thursday November 2nd : 5.30 - 8 PM

Official opening : 6.15 PM by J.M. de Groot & P. Schoon

The exhibition will be on view from November 3 until January 13

SmithDavidson Gallery is excited to announce the representation of the Estate of **Gerard Verdijk (1934 - 2005)**, the post-war Dutch artist best known for his abstract works on paper and canvas. Verdijk was an integral member of the Dutch art scene throughout his extensive career. Numerous national & international museums have included works in their collections. Additionally, major Verdijk retrospectives have been held at Museum Dordrecht, Noord Brabants Museum, Kunstmuseum The Hague and Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam.

Gerard Verdijk always went his own way as an artist and he took inspiration from the international abstract movements of the 1950s, as well as from Oriental philosophy and encounters during his travels to Africa, Japan and America. As a result the work of Gerard Verdijk is so varied it can hardly be pinned down to one single movement.



Gerard Verdijk, *Short + longer red sign* (2001)

Leading up to Gerard Verdijk's 90th birth year, **MEDITATIONS** highlights the process of Gerard Verdijk's later paintings and brings together twenty artworks by the artist from this period.

After moving to the French countryside in 1994, Verdijk's paintings take a new distinct direction, combining elements from earlier works on paper, universal symbols from ancient cultures and advanced philosophical insights acquired from the artist's travels to Japan in 1991 & 92.

The philosophical approach to Verdijk's work deepened, resulting in a stronger connection between the depicted objects and negative space. A duality materialised between concrete objects and the oppositional void that surrounds them; between the shadows and the objects that cast them.

The late paintings by Gerard Verdijk show a great restraint in minimalist compositions, yet they are filled with layered and sensuous color fields that fill the voids around those solid objects and shapes.

SmithDavidson Gallery has been a hallmark gallery within The Netherlands and abroad for well over half a century; David Smith and Gabriëlle Davidson, over the past 2 decades, expanded the gallery internationally and they deepened the gallery's scope to representing Modern & Contemporary Art from six continents with recent exhibitions in New York City, presentations at EXPO Chicago, Art Cologne and Art Miami as well as hosting multiple curated gallery presentations in Amsterdam throughout the year.

SDG are grateful to Josephine Sloet for her support in bringing this exhibition to fruition.

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Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm