

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Robert Mapplethorpe: XYZ Portfolios Robert Mapplethorpe selected by Robert Wilson

Opening: Friday, 13 March 2020, 7 – 9 pm

Duration: 14 March – 18 April 2020

Location: Galerie Thomas Schulte, Charlottenstraße 24, 10117 Berlin



Robert Mapplethorpe, *Joe / Rubberman*, 1978 (left) | *Calla Lilies*, 1985 (middle) | *Scott, NYC*, 1978 (right),
all works: Courtesy of Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation. Used by permission

Robert Mapplethorpe's preeminent X, Y, and Z Portfolios will be shown together for the first time in Berlin at **Galerie Thomas Schulte**. This is the second time the complete suits have been shown together in Germany since 1997. Created between 1978 and 1981, the three portfolios contain 13 photographs each: X features imagery from New York's homosexual S&M scene; Y floral still lifes; and Z nude portraits of black men.

The gallery is also presenting a large group of Mapplethorpe's prints selected by another artist of the gallery, avant-garde theatre director and designer Robert Wilson. The exhibitions will be on view 14 March through 18 April with two special film screenings of the documentary *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures* (2016) at the gallery the day after the opening and during Berlin Fetish week.

Robert Mapplethorpe (born in New York in 1946, died in Boston 1989) was an acclaimed photographer, most noted for his black and white portraits of celebrities, flowers, as well as female and male nudes. While initially creating collages using found photographs, objects, and painting, Mapplethorpe turned to photography in the early 1970's, through which—using a Polaroid SX-70 camera—he quickly became known for the portraits he took of his wide circle of friends, including famous artists, musicians, porn stars, and socialites. Mapplethorpe's diverse oeuvre—homoerotic images, floral still-life photographs, commissioned portraits, and mixed-media sculpture—is united by the consistency of his approach and technique. Mapplethorpe's photographs offer a seemingly endless gradation of blacks and whites, shadow and light. Regardless of their specific subject, his images combine both provocation and elegance.

Robert Mapplethorpe graduated from the Pratt Institute Brooklyn with a BFA in 1970. He participated in documenta in 1977 and 1982. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions worldwide, including the Salomon R. Guggenheim Museum (2019; 2005), the LACMA and J. Paul Getty Museum (2016), Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal (2016), Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma (2015), Tate Modern (2008; 2014), Grand Palais (2014), Modern Art Oxford (2009), Whitney Museum of American Art (2008), MoMA P.S.1 (2006; 2008), the National Museum, Stockholm (2007), Museo Reina Sofía (2006), the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2004), FRAC, Paris (2003). His work can be found in numerous public collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, Australian National Gallery, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, International Center of Photography, New York, Israel Museum, Madison Art Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, MoMA, New Orleans Museum of Art, Centre Georges Pompidou, SFMOMA, Stedelijk Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum. Shortly before his untimely death, Mapplethorpe established The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, dedicated to the promotion of his work and to funding medical research in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Since it was established in 1991, **Galerie Thomas Schulte's** ongoing focus has been placed on nurturing, supporting, and sustaining outstanding and inspiring artistic positions in international conceptual art spanning from the 1960's to the present. In 2006, Galerie Thomas Schulte moved into the landmark nineteenth-century Tuteur House in Berlin-Mitte. The prominent tripartite display window of the gallery's nine-meter-high Corner Space was added to the building in 1913 by Hermann Muthesius, a famous early pioneer of German architectural modernism and founder of the association Deutscher Werkbund. Galerie Thomas Schulte—known as Galerie Franck + Schulte until 2000—was one of the first galleries to open in Berlin after Germany's reunification. It quickly became known for its select exhibition program, which not only offered innovative and thought-provoking works by represented artists, but also created a platform for pioneering international artists in Berlin's re-emerging art scene. Over the years, Galerie Thomas Schulte has represented world-reknown artists including i.e. Richard Artschwager, Alice Aycock, Richard Deacon, Rebecca Horn, Sol LeWitt, Gordon Matta-Clark, Robert Mapplethorpe, Allan McCollum, and Pat Steir. In addition, it also exhibited many other important artists including Bas Jan Ader, Alighiero e Boetti, Daniel Buren, Chuck Close, Helmut Federle, Michael Heizer, Magdalena Jetelová, Joseph Kosuth, Jannis Kounellis, Mark Lombardi, Gerhard Richter, Pipilotti Rist, Robert Smithson, and Keith Sonnier. The gallery regularly participates in major international art fairs including a.o. Art Basel, Art Basel Miami Beach, The Armory Show, and ARCOmadrid.

Film Screenings: "MAPPLETHORPE: LOOK AT THE PICTURES" (2016)

by Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, Duration: 105min, OV with German subtitles, PG16
on Saturday, 14 March, 3.30 pm and Thursday, 9 April, 6.30 pm, admission free

Contact for information on the gallery and the artworks:

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www.galeriethomasschulte.de | Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday, noon – 6 pm

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