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Pierre Soulages "Eau-forte XXII"

Etching, aquatint 1973

"Hommage à Pierre Soulages - Selected Works from the Graphic Oeuvre"

Works from Pierre Soulages's graphic oeuvre have been part of Galerie Boissérée's exhibition repertoire for many years. Through close personal contact with the artist, extensive exhibitions and accompanying publications were already realized in 2009 and 2014. On the occasion of its 185th anniversary, the Galerie Boissérée is delighted to open the 2023/2024 exhibition season with the largest retrospective of Pierre Soulages's graphic works to date.

Soulages's graphic oeuvre is small, which makes it all the more difficult to assemble a representative collection of his works. Over the past ten years, however, we have succeeded in building a coherent collection that represents nearly half of Pierre Soulages's graphic oeuvre.

With the largest exhibition of his graphic works currently on the European art market, Galerie Boissérée offers collectors and art enthusiasts a concentrated insight into the artistic achievements of the great French artist. The exhibition includes aquatint etchings, lithographs, and silkscreen prints, representing all the techniques Soulages used to realize his motifs.

"In fact, I work with great passion in both engraving and painting. When I'm passionate about something, I devote myself exclusively to it. I literally have attacks of lithography, I have attacks of etching, just as I have attacks of painting." (Pierre Soulages, quoted in Encrevé, p. 44).

Pierre Soulages (1919–2022) is one of the most important French artists of the twentieth century. Over the course of his long career, he developed a unique body of paintings. Based on the non-color black, he succeeded in depicting the effects of light on his canvases in many different ways. In addition to his painting, he also worked in printmaking. His aquatint etchings, lithographs, and silkscreen prints are characterized by moments of chance and experimentation. He uses embossing to create a tactile, haptic structure in his dynamic compositions and forms. The motifs are imbued with gestural spontaneity and the tension between condensed areas and empty spaces. As in his paintings, this creates a play of light and dark.

On October 25, 2022, Pierre Soulages passed away at the age of 102. On November 2, 2022, the French state paid tribute to his life and work in a memorial ceremony held at the Cour Carrée of the Louvre in Paris.

The exhibition will open on Friday, September 1, 2023, as part of the DC Open gallery weekend and will be on view at Galerie Boissérée through October 21, 2023. A catalog will be published in conjunction with the exhibition and will be available for purchase at the gallery and online.

Drusugasse 7-11, 50667 Cologne, Germany

Phone: +49 – (0)221 – 2578519

galerie@boisseree.com, www.boisseree.com

Tue - Fri 10am - 1pm & 2pm – 6pm, Sat 11am – 3pm