

GALERIE ANDREA CARATSCH

PRESS RELEASE

OLIVIER MOSSET – Circles and Stripes

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Galerie Andrea Caratsch presents its fifth solo exhibition by Olivier Mosset. The “Circles and Stripes” exhibition focuses on the legendary Circle Paintings of his early period (1966–1972), which paved the way to the Swiss artist’s international success, as well as on Stripe Paintings (1973–1976), which were created immediately after several years of intense work on the approximately 150 Circle Paintings.

15 Circle Paintings and 3 Stripe Paintings will be shown as separate groups of works in two gallery spaces. In the main room, 15 black circular rings adorn the white walls like a frieze. A black circular ring (Ø 9 cm) forms the center of each white canvas square, whose serial arrangement invites the viewer to explore the effect of Mosset’s black circular rings on their visual perception. The artist is supposed to have created nearly 150 Circle Paintings between 1966 and 1972 in Paris, where he was in touch with representatives of the *Nouveaux réalistes* such as Jean Tinguely and Daniel Spoerri, although he did not follow their path departing from Abstract Art. The serial arrangement of the Circle Paintings emphasizes the concept of systematic repetition of the motif, which is inherent to this group of works, while questions about original and authenticity are raised. The vanishing of the aura and the loss of authority is an intended consequence of the work’s multiple reproductions by the artist. The motif of the black circular ring can also be read as a zero and corresponds with *degré zero*, the central theme of the group of artists called “B.M.P.T.,” which Mosset established together with Daniel Buren, Michel Parmentier and Niele Toroni in Paris in 1966. Mosset’s early works are characterized by efforts to go back to a painterly “zero point” and to achieve neutrality and autonomy in painting. Formally, however, his circular rings can be seen as references to the targets of Duchamp, Jasper Johns, Picabia and Noland.

Following the Circle Paintings, several groups of Stripe Paintings in the manner of Daniel Buren were created between 1973 and 1977. However, these appropriations were not produced with printed textiles as in the works of Buren but strictly by means of painting. Then as now, Olivier Mosset demands a form of painterly “truth” (Paul Cézanne), which has to base itself on the material conditions of the picture, like size, format, stretcher frame, colour, application, etc.. Other phases were characterized by the creation of monochrome, geometric paintings and sculptures for public spaces. In 1990, Mosset represented Switzerland at the Venice Biennale. He lives and works in Tucson, Arizona.

The gallery is open from Monday to Friday, from 10 AM to 6 PM