

For immediate release

Richard Hamilton - Swingeing London 1960-1980

September 7 – December 6, 2013

Villa Grisebach, Bilker Str. 4-6, 40213 Düsseldorf

Hours: Monday – Friday, 10 AM – 6 PM

Villa Grisebach's representative office in Düsseldorf presents British artist Richard Hamilton (1922 - London - 2011) in a solo exhibition from September 7 until December 6, 2013.

Titled "Richard Hamilton – Swingeing London 1960-1980," the selling exhibition features a selection of prints and multiples by a pop art pioneer whose legacy is one of the most important oeuvres of twentieth century printmaking. Artistically as well as technically Hamilton pushed the limits of the medium. His prints greatly influenced his contemporaries and are staggeringly topical to this day.

The 25 or so prints show the work of an artist who examined popular culture, the visual language of advertising and the role of the media in society and politics in a critical and playful way. This is the central theme of Hamilton's entire oeuvre.

Probably his most well-known work – said to be the first piece of European pop art – is the poster collage "Just what is it that makes today's homes so different, so appealing?" (1956) now in the collection of Kunsthalle Tübingen.

Equally famous is Hamilton's cover design for the 1968 Beatles record, which attained cult status under the name "The White Album." Through its minimal appearance, a white cover with only the album's title, "The Beatles," printed on it, the design defied expectations of the extravagant status of a commercial pop band. At that time Hamilton was friends with another band, the Rolling Stones. A picture in the newspaper of Mick Jagger's arrest was used by the artist for his "Swingeing London" series. Three works from the series "Swingeing London 67 – Poster" (1968), "Swingeing London – etching" (1968) and "Release" (1972) are represented in the exhibition. Early in his career Hamilton received a considerable amount of attention in Germany where he was given numerous exhibitions. In Stuttgart he met German artist Dieter Roth. It was the beginning of a long friendship resulting in the collaborative work "Two Flower-Pieces" (1974) that can be seen in the exhibition.

During his lifetime Hamilton was honored with solo shows at Tate Gallery in London, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, MACBA in Barcelona, Museum Ludwig in Cologne and Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin. He participated in Documenta IV and X in Kassel. In 1993 he was awarded the "Golden Lion" of Biennale di Venezia.

From February 13 until May 26, 2014, Tate Modern in London will present a comprehensive retrospective of Richard Hamilton's work.

The opening reception of Villa Grisebach's exhibition will coincide with the opening night of DC-Open on Friday, September 6, 2013, from 6 PM to 9 PM. The exhibition can be viewed on Saturday, September 7 from 10 AM to 6 PM and the following weeks Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM.