PRESS RELEASE

CY TWOMBLY
UNPUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS

Like the last warm days of a summer past:
Unpublished photographic works by Cy Twombly

Cy Twombly (1928-2011), one of the most prominent representatives of abstract Expressionism, astounded the world with a plethora of photographic works during the last decade of his life. Consisting of motifs taken from everyday life, consistently warm shades of color, as well as a dreamlike atmosphere—Twombly’s blurry images “outwardly” constitute the absolute counterpart of his world-famous scratchy/amorphous drawings. In their poetic and aesthetic qualities the photographs are on a par with his drawings and paintings, and they unveil a further chapter in Twombly’s extraordinarily extensive oeuvre.

Schirmer/Mosel now presents the fourth volume of “Unpublished Photographs,” which contains 111 never-before-seen photographs from Twombly’s estate, including Twombly’s final images taken on the Caribbean island of St. Barth’s just a few months before his death in early 2011. Material objects and his own natural surroundings were among Twombly’s preferred artistic subjects, and the images show the things that were always within view at his various studios in Italy or in the USA: his own sculptures and paintings, flowers, fruit, views out the window, the ocean ...

Cy Twombly (who was born in Lexington, Virginia, in 1928 and died in Rom in 2011) ranks among the most influential artists of his generation. During the early fifties, he and his close friend Robert Rauschenberg attended Black Mountain College in North Carolina, where John Cage and Robert Motherwell were then teaching. Even in his early works, his fascination with classical literature and history played an influential role. Twombly captured his photographic motifs with a Polaroid camera. Using a special pigmentation technique (dryprint process), these unique enlarged prints are reproduced in a limited edition. Not only the special saturation of colors achieved in this way, but also the striking lack of definition, constitute the unmistakable character and extraordinary allure of the images.

The introductory essay to the volume “Unpublished Photographs” was written by award-winning Munich writer and publisher Michael Krüger.

In addition, a selection of Twombly’s photographs can be viewed until 31 January 2013 in conjunction with the exhibition “Cy Twombly: Draperies—Photographien” at the Schirmer/Mosel Showroom (Hofgartenarkaden, Galeriestr. 2, Munich).