

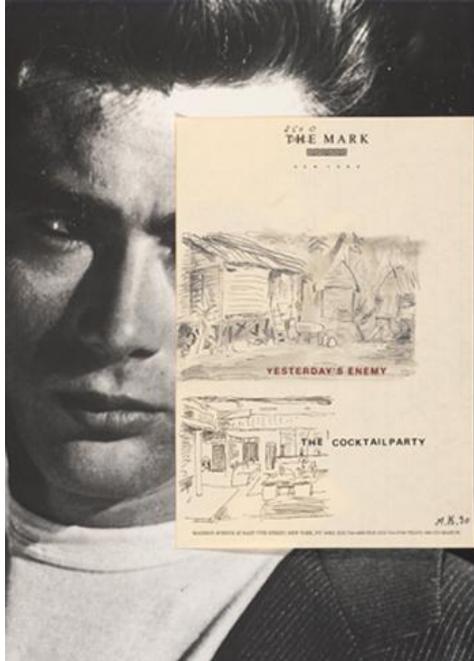
# ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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For immediate release  
28 March 2011

## Ackland Art Museum Presents Enigmatic and Engaging Conceptual German Art



CHAPEL HILL, NC—A traumatic national history profoundly influences the work of many contemporary German artists. Informed by brutal political movements and their aftermath—the Nazi dictatorship, the horrors of World War II, and the resulting tense divisions of the Cold War—those born in the early to mid-twentieth century produced work that treats representation, national identity, and history as unstable, fractured, and problematic. Such a “de-natured” condition exists in other post-war (or modern) cultures as well, but has spurred German artists in particular towards the complex and conceptually aligned creativity for which they are now so widely recognized.

The nine artists featured in **DE-NATURED**—Joseph Beuys, Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Polke, Hanne Darboven, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Andreas Gursky, Thomas Ruff, Thomas Struth, and Martin Kippenberger—represent a pantheon of the best-known German artists of the recent past. Their art covers a broad aesthetic spectrum—from nondescript objects rendered in felt, to assured works in oil, photography, print media, and drawing—but is held together by shared cultural influences and the quality of their individual achievement. Drawn from a notable private collection, the nearly 40 pieces on view address profound questions about society, creativity, representation, and aesthetic experience.

The exhibition was organized by Peter Nisbet, Chief Curator, Ackland Art Museum. It will be on view April 8 through July 10, 2011. A full schedule of related programs is available online at [ackland.org](http://ackland.org).

**DE-NATURED** was made possible by James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach, and by the William Hayes Ackland Trust.

Exhibition media sponsor: WUNC North Carolina Public Radio

Image: Martin Kippenberger, German, 1953-1997. *Untitled (The Mark)*, 1990, graphite and Letraset on hotel stationery, mounted on poster. James Keith Brown and Eric Diefenbach Collection. © Estate Martin Kippenberger, Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne.

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### **The Ackland Art Museum**

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland's holdings consist of more than 16,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies.

### **Hours and Admission**

The Ackland is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM; Thursday 10 AM – 8 PM; and Sunday 1 PM – 5 PM. Admission to the Museum is always free, with donations accepted.

### **Location and Parking**

The Ackland Art Museum is located on South Columbia Street, near the corner of East Franklin Street, in downtown Chapel Hill. Parking is available at several nearby municipal and private parking decks, and at meters on Franklin Street. Most Chapel Hill Transit buses (free) provide service to downtown Chapel Hill. More information is available at 919.966.5736 or [www.ackland.org](http://www.ackland.org).

*For more information or interview opportunities with the curator, please contact:*

Emily Bowles

Director of Communications

[esbowles@email.unc.edu](mailto:esbowles@email.unc.edu) [www.ackland.org](http://www.ackland.org)

PH 919.843.3675 FAX 919.966.1400