



THOMAS SCHÜTTE

T H R E E A C T S

15th March 2019 – 16th June 2019

MONNAIE DE PARIS

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday - 11am to 7pm

Wednesday until 9pm

11, Quai de Conti

75006 Paris

SHOP

Tuesday to Sunday

10:30am – 7:30pm

2, rue Guénégaud

75006 Paris

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The 11 Conti – Monnaie de Paris is delighted to announce the first Parisian retrospective of the major and unclassifiable German artist Thomas Schütte (b. 1954 and living and working in Düsseldorf). A student of Gerhard Richter at the Düsseldorf Kunstakademie until 1981, the artist is now recognised as one of the principal re-inventors of modern sculpture. His oeuvre is influenced by minimal and conceptual art as well as classical sculpture and its powerful codes of representation. He has recently enjoyed several major solo exhibitions and European retrospectives of his work including the Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2016), the Beyeler Foundation, Basel (2013) and the Serpentine Gallery, London (2012). He received the Golden Lion award at the Venice Biennale in 2005. His works are included in the collections of the greatest museums and are regularly exhibited.

This retrospective is entitled “Three Acts” a translation of *Dreiakter*, the most historically important oeuvre of the exhibition, dating from 1982 and belonging to the collection of the Centre Pompidou.

“The aim of my oeuvres is to introduce a twisted question mark into the world.”

The choice of pieces reflects the artist’s disconcertingly scathing analysis of how society is organised and the effect this has on the individual. The exhibition is composed of three thematically organised parts and includes the presentation of several major series including *United Enemies*, the *Aluminium Frau* series and *Vater Staat* as well as many unseen works.

The first act revolves around the representation of the human figure – male and female – which, both on a monumental and miniscule scale, submits itself to every kind of distortion and transformation. The second act allows the visitor to discover the astonishing relationship the artist maintains with death and the wide variety of means used to represent it: death masks, malicious spirits, wilted flowers, funeral urns... The third act presents a series of architectural models that are equally monuments to the grimmer aspects of our civilization such as the *One Man House*, which acts as both sanctuary and prison, or *Ferienhaus für Terroristen* (Holiday Home for Terrorists) with its modernist accents. Several of his models have been constructed on a life-sized scale such as *Kristall II* in the Salon Dupré, a house for meditation into which the visitor may enter.

The artist moves from scale models to life-size architecture, and between miniatures and monumental sculptures. Thomas Schütte’s works take over the public spaces of the Paris Mint and are also exhibited in all the inner courtyards with a selection of masterful and hitherto unseen sculptures accessible to all. The exhibition thus reflects the duality in the artist’s oeuvre; the interior spaces of the Monnaie de Paris echoing those of the exterior.

The exhibition is the fruit of close collaboration with Thomas Schütte himself, who was exceptionally involved in its conception. It is also the result of partnerships with French museums such as the Musée National d'Art Moderne, the Musée de Grenoble and the Carré d'Art in Nîmes and Pinault Collection.

The exhibition is an extension of the great themes of the artistic programme conceived by the Monnaie de Paris: to exhibit great sculptors from the 20th and 21st centuries and to reflect on craftsmanship and artistic ability on a site whose workshops are still in operation.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a bilingual publication (in French & English) including the exhibited works, an introduction and previously unpublished essays.

Curator: Camille Morineau, Director of Exhibitions and Collections at the Monnaie de Paris

Associate curator: Mathilde de Croix, Exhibition Curator at the Monnaie de Paris.



United Enemies, 2011
Patinated bronze
photo : Gautier Deblonde

11 CONTI - MONNAIE DE PARIS

The Monnaie de Paris has been situated at 11 quai de Conti, at the heart of the 6th arrondissement of Paris since 1775. This royal manufactory was inaccessible to the general public for over 200 years until the Monnaie de Paris opened its doors to visitors in 2017, when it was re-baptised 11 Conti – Monnaie de Paris. The transformation of the site has opened up this institution with its 1150 years of history, to allow the public to discover its collections, heritage and activity.

The 11 Conti Museum offers a unique experience combining both exhibition rooms and views of the workshops of the Monnaie de Paris. In a fascinating sensory journey, the 11 Conti Museum presents its know-how and historical treasures. The visit ends in the museum boutique, situated in the former foundry, where visitors, lovers of contemporary art and numismatists can find the unique creations of the Monnaie de Paris. The visit of the permanent collections is complimented by twice-yearly temporary exhibitions of contemporary art, which take place in the historic salons along the Seine.

The 11 Conti – Monnaie de Paris site is criss-crossed by several streets and passageways, which make it accessible to everyone and offer the public the opportunity to discover this architectural masterpiece in the heart of Paris.

The visitor can walk through the site, stopping off in the inner courtyards that form pleasant urban squares. The 11 Conti – Monnaie de Paris is thus ideally situated for those crossing from one bank of the Seine to the other.