



## *Le vent vert*

ILSE HENIN

January 14 – February 18, 2023

KM, Berlin is pleased to present *Le vent vert*, Ilse Henin's third solo exhibition with the gallery after 2015 and 2019, showing a dedicated selection of recent drawings from the last two years. In her extensive oeuvre Ilse Henin refers to various historical sources, representing alternative movements, which were mostly dominated by male artists, such as Paul Klee or Sigmar Polke. Henin appropriates this alchemy characterized image vocabulary and transforms it into her own language, she abstracts it by drawing recurrent forms. The human body relates to its environment and is constantly in exchange. The tensions between the bodies increase due to architectural and spatial elements. They grow from other bodies or dissolve into abstract shapes. Humans and ciphers occasionally encounter each other in this space, they merge, become beings reminding the viewer of a certain state, an encounter, a feeling. Their faces frequently have an emotional and intensive look expressing something we are at a loss of words for.

In West-Germany, the late 1960s were a notoriously vibrant time of political and social unrest, of artistic solidarity, experimentation, often combined with an anti-capitalist stance. Ilse Henin (\*1944 in Cologne) was a student in those years (from 1966 to 1970). Her political engagement would take her to West-Germany's anti-nuclear power and other social movements, dedicating her art to such cause, keeping a critical distance to the market. From there, Henin would—and she isn't the only (female) artist from that time to do so—expand her explicitly political oeuvre in the 1980s into a practice that is more personal and generally fused with political, social, and feminist concerns.

In June 2023 a large selection of Henin's drawings from the 1980s until today will be presented at Kunsthalle Düsseldorf.

Ilse Henin (\*1944) lives and works in the German region Eifel. From 1966 until 1970 she studied at Kunstakademie Karlsruhe with Prof. Horst Egon Kalinowski. Between 1970 and 1978 she regularly was part of "Neumarkt der Künstler" in Cologne, an alternative artists' initiative. Her drawings and paintings were exhibited in exhibitions in Germany, France and Italy.