

ARCHIV CHARLOTTE POSENENSKE

Anfänge der Form: Charlotte Posenenske auf Papier

February 15 – April 5, 2025

Opening: February 15, 2025, 4 – 7 pm

MEHDI CHOUAKRI WILHELM HALLEN

Kopenhagener Strasse 60-72

13407 Berlin–Reinickendorf

Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm and by appointment

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PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, March 4, 2025

The **Archiv Charlotte Posenenske**, a dedicated exhibition space at **Mehdi Chouakri Wilhelm Hallen**, presents the first instalment of a year-long display exploring the lesser-known early works of Charlotte Posenenske. This initial exhibition focuses on **works on paper** from **1956 to 1959**, offering insight into the foundational years of an artist who would later become a key figure in Minimal and Conceptual art.

At first glance, these dynamic compositions—created with a palette knife—appear to contrast sharply with Posenenske’s later industrially produced sculptures. However, they reveal an early preoccupation with **structure, rhythm, and process** that remained central to her artistic evolution. Strongly influenced by her teacher **Willi Baumeister** and the **École de Paris**, Posenenske experimented with gestural abstraction, yet her approach already hinted at a mechanised detachment. Works such as *Rasterbild* (1956/57) display an almost systematic arrangement of black dots, evoking both the visual language of Mondrian and the perforated surfaces of Lucio Fontana’s *Buchi*. The speed and precision in her application of paint resonate with the calligraphic dynamism of **Abstract Expressionism**, while her palette-knife landscapes recall Cézanne’s structural approach to form.

The exhibition ***Anfänge der Form: Charlotte Posenenske auf Papier*** underscores the complexity of Posenenske’s early practice, in which the tension between gestural expression and depersonalised mark-making foreshadows her later transition into three-dimensional, participatory work. By revisiting these formative years, the Archiv Charlotte Posenenske encourages a deeper understanding of the artist’s systematic **exploration of space**—one that would ultimately redefine the boundaries between painting and sculpture.

Charlotte Posenenske (*1930 Wiesbaden †1985 Frankfurt am Main) is considered one of the most important figures of Minimalism in Germany and beyond. Posenenske's artistic development began with paintings, progressed through sculptural images that increasingly intervened in space, and culminated in her main sculptural work in the 1960s. The spatial sculptures and "revolving-vane" objects, which can be freely assembled from serially produced elements, blot out artistic subjectivity and replace the traditional, autonomous work of art with industrial artefacts. By detaching them from their everyday function, they become recognisable as aesthetic objects and at the same time undermine the commodity character of art. Posenenske's works pursue an explicitly democratic claim to art by resorting to low-cost production and creating opportunities for the "consumers" to participate.

Her works have been shown in solo exhibitions at **Haugar Art Museum**, Tønsberg (2025), **Fondazione Antonio Dalle Nogare**, Bolzano (2021), **MUDAM**, Luxembourg (2020), **Kunstsammlung NRW** (2020), **DIA Foundation**, Beacon (2019), **MACBA**, Barcelona (2019), **Kröller-Müller Museum**, Otterlo (2019), **MUHKA**, Antwerp (2015), **Palais de Tokyo**, Paris (2010), **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst**, Frankfurt/Main (1990), among others.