

CHAMP LACOMBE

Norbert Schwontkowski

June 6 - September 6, 2025

List of Works

Norbert Schwontkowski

Der Prophet, 2004

Oil and pigment on canvas

150.5 x 170 cm

59.25 x 66.92 in

Norbert Schwontkowski

110 Sketchbooks, 1997-2012

Norbert Schwontkowski (b.1949-d.2013)

Forming the first of two exhibitions of Schwontkowski's enigmatic practice, this exhibition centres on a seminal work - *Der Prophet* (2004), alongside 110 of Schwontkowski's sketchbooks made between 1997-2012.

Der Prophet, stands alone, precarious and aloof, yet grounded by a stoic gravity. A solitary presence caught between declaration and dissolution. A gatekeeper. In showcasing his physical embodiment, Schwontkowski also renders the character's emotional interior. As is the case with each of the artist's characters, where the face becomes a locus of revelation.

Schwontkowski's sketchbooks, of which he had hundreds, reveal a language developing in the margins. Produced during moments of transition, in pockets of time between larger works, his drawings reveal an idiosyncratic grammar of mark-making and observation. In these, the quiet dailiness of subject matter reveal an artist perpetually attuned to the in-between, from tracing, or parsing, his emotional landscape.

Schwontkowski's figures often carry the weight of paradox. They are at once present and withdrawn, perceivable yet opaque. Their emotional charge emanates not from a bold dramatic gesture, but from the subtle interplay between posture, palette, and vacant space.

A second exhibition, featuring over 30 works on canvas by Schwontkowski opens at Champ Lacombe Biarritz on June 14. A catalogue of both exhibitions, featuring text by Dr Isabella Maidment will be available from June 14. ISBN: 979-8-89170-345-2.

Schwontkowski studied painting at the University of the Arts in Bremen and the University of Fine Arts Hamburg. Following teaching positions in Hamburg, Bremen, and Greifswald and a position as a guest lecturer in Braunschweig, he was appointed professor of painting at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg in 2005. His work has been shown across galleries and museums internationally, and is in the permanent collections of, amongst others; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Museum of New Zealand, Hall Art Foundation, Rubell Museum, Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kunsthalle Bremen, Neues Museum, Nuremberg, Pinakothek der Moderne, München, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden, Kolumba Museum, Cologne, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, Weserburg Bremen.