

Performances by Guy de Cointet and Channa Horwitz

15 May 2013

7 p.m. Channa Horwitz *Variations on Sonakinatography*
Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Grabbeplatz 4, 40213 Düsseldorf

8.30 p.m. Guy de Cointet *Five Sisters*
FFT Jutta, Kasernenstraße 6, 40213 Düsseldorf

Performances on the occasion of the exhibition

A Void

Henri Chopin, Guy de Cointet, Channa Horwitz

Opening: 16 May 2013, 6 p.m.

Exhibition duration: 16. May – 30 June 2013



From the late 1960s until his early death in 1983, the French-born artist Guy de Cointet (born 1934) was an influential member of the Los Angeles art scene. De Cointet's performances are surreal scenarios in which ordinary everyday occurrences are linked – often in a clairvoyant manner – to specific objects, colours and letters of the alphabet. *Five Sisters* (1982) was the last performance Guy de Cointet staged before his death and it marks a departure from his earlier works through its concentration on light as the most significant trigger of feelings. In *Five Sisters*, developed in collaboration with Eric Orr, Cointet explores the emotional sense of wellbeing of five women who clash in varying restless encounters at their parent's home while discussing questions concerning clothes, tanning, health, exotic holidays, work and painting. *Five Sisters* is surely Cointet's most mature piece in which he expanded his earlier interest in objects in the direction of dance and pantomime.

The Californian artist Channa Horwitz (born 1932) has worked on a system of drawing since the early 1960s that enables her to visualise motion and temporality. Her black and white or coloured drawings are mostly based on the sequence of numbers from one to eight that she declines like nouns in ever new variations and develops into highly complex structures. Her works resemble graphic notations that want to be decoded. Since the late 1960s, Horwitz has also used her drawings, which she gathers together under the title *Sonakinatography* (sound-motion-recording) as the choreographic source material for performances. She structures and dissects time into units of sound, gesture or word into them to such an extent that the viewer's sense of time itself changes. Her pieces, which bear relationships to John Cage, for example, examine and shift the boundaries between the genres of dance, performance and visual art.

Both artists, whose works have only recently been receiving the international recognition they deserve, are still largely unknown in Germany.

The restaging of *Five Sisters* is commissioned by If I Can't Dance (Amsterdam), MUSAC (Léon), and STUK (Leuven), coproduced by LACMA (Los Angeles), MoMA (New York), Reina Sofia (Madrid), Centre Pompidou (Metz), Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, and financially supported by the Mondriaan Fund, the Culture Programme of the European Union, and the Estate of Guy de Cointet. With thanks to the Estate of Eric Orr.



“Variations on Sonakinatography” will be realised by
Gudrun Lange (choreography), Tobias Liebezeit (percussion)

A cooperation between the FFT and the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf



“Kunsthalle Bühne” is a cooperative project of the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf with

