Pierre Alechinsky and Karel Appel

Travaux à deux pinceaux (1976-1978)

12 March – 30 May 2020 Opening on Thursday 12 March from 6pm

at 13 rue de Téhéran, 75008 Paris



Pierre Alechinsky and Karel Appel have known each other since 1949 and their CoBrA years. The artists from Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam enjoyed the emulation of works produced in collaboration, often combining poems, drawings and paintings. Appel and Alechinsky had each notably worked with Christian Dotremont, but it wasn't until 1976 that they found themselves together in Pierre Alechinsky's studio in Bougival, outskirts of Paris to embark on a series of ink works with two brushes. They established some basic principles: white plus the black of India Ink, the paper would be on the floor, one would start and the other would riposte... Then, the paper would be mounted on canvas.

The experience is repeated in 1977. In 1978, twenty drawings are made in Appel's studio in New York. To illustrate this group of artworks, Hugo Claus wrote twenty poems and eighteen rhymes. Dotremont prefaced the catalogue of the exhibitions that took place at the Galerie de France in Paris, at the Louisiana Museum in Copenhagen, at the Fondation Maeght in Saint-Paul de Vence among other places.

This exhibition invites us to rediscover a number of these "two brushes" works, which also shows coloured paintings produced by Alechinsky and Appel in the same decade.

Requests for visuals: presse@galerie-lelong.com