

Hommage à Joseph Marioni

16. Februar – 18. Mai 2025

Joseph Marioni is internationally regarded one of the outstanding representatives of radical painting dedicated entirely to colour. He died in September 2024 at the age of 81. To mark the occasion, the Von der Heydt-Museum Wuppertal, whose collection includes a characteristic work by Marioni, honours the painter with an exhibition.

Marioni was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1943. He lived and worked in New York. His work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions both in the USA and Europe and is represented in important private and public collections, such as the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the San Francisco Museum of Art, the Kunstmuseum Basel, the Museum Abteiberg Mönchengladbach, Kolumba Cologne, the Sammlung Goetz in Munich and the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg.

Marioni's art is based on American Radical Painting, a movement that in the 1970s explored the positions of Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman and Morris Louis and found new forms of expression with the means of colour. Over the course of five decades, Marioni developed his own, ever more finely differentiated approach. For him, colour was not just an expression of a process, but its very essence. He laid colours on top of each other in glazed layers, evenly but not homogeneously. He did not work with brushes, but with a paint roller. Traces of the running of the not yet dry paint on the edges of the picture are just as visible as the layers of colour. Marioni left nothing to chance, but planned his works meticulously. His aim was to give the colour the character of a living, transparent skin and his paintings the quality of bodies, which in turn can be felt physically - and not just visually.

With the kind support of Hengesbach Gallery, Wuppertal.

