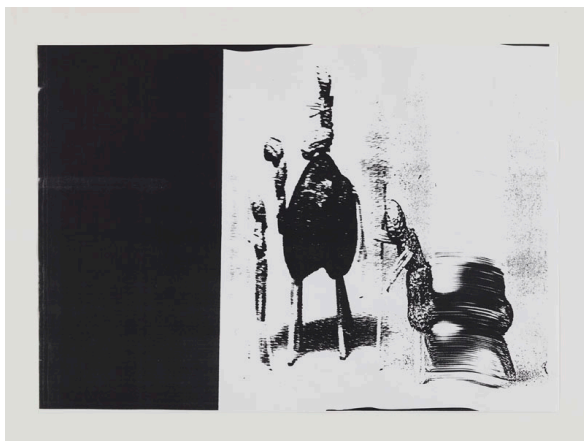


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Fergus McCaffrey, New York

**Sigmar Polke:
*Photocopierarbeiten***

November 6 – December 20, 2014

**Opening Reception:
Thursday, November 6, 6 – 8pm**

Fergus McCaffrey, New York, is proud to present an exhibition of Sigmar Polke's (1941–2010) groundbreaking *Photocopierarbeiten*, or manipulated photocopies. This is the gallery's third exhibition of that artist's work, following *Sigmar Polke / Andy Warhol: Drawings 1962–65* (2006) and *Sigmar Polke* (2011).

The exhibition features multiple sequences of unique manipulated photocopies and an immersive, large sculptural installation, all created between 1995 and 2002. Organized with the support of the estate of Sigmar Polke, the exhibition sheds light upon a new style of image making that would come to dominate Polke's output over the final twenty-five years of his career.

Since the early 1960s, Polke created paintings and drawings culled from halftone images in newspapers, magazines, and books. He enlarged these raster patterns to expose the cell structure, or building blocks, of media representation. Regarding the rasters, Polke stated, "I like the impersonal, neutral, and manufactured quality of these images. The raster, to me, is a system, a principle, a method, structure. It divides, disperses, arranges and makes everything the same. I also like it that enlarging the pictures makes them blurry and sets the dots in motion; I like that the motifs switch between being recognizable and being unrecognizable, the ambiguity of this situation, the fact that it stays open" (*Sigmar Polke: Alibis 1963–2010*, exh. cat., Museum of Modern Art, p. 53).

Polke spent the 1970s polluting the photographic processes to extraordinary effect, and this deliberate corruption of the mechanisms of reproduction proved a foretaste of what was to come as a photocopier arrived at his studio in the early 1990s. Forcing error and embracing chance, Polke spent hours and days dragging and compressing, enlarging and reducing, found images on the scan bed of the photocopier to produce hallucinogenic extruded and contorted forms—pushing images to the point of obliteration. As John Kelsey has noted, a photocopy became a "hybrid medium somewhere between drawing and photography, a sort of electronic frottage" (*Sigmar Polke: Alibis 1963–2010*, p. 232).

This exhibition will provide further insights into the creative process of one of the most innovative and influential artists of the second half of the twentieth century. Polke's work has been the subject of countless museum exhibitions. Currently, the retrospective exhibition *Sigmar Polke: Alibis 1963–2010*, which was organized by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, is on view at Tate Modern, London, before traveling to the Museum Ludwig, Cologne, in 2015.

About Fergus McCaffrey

Founded in 2006, Fergus McCaffrey is internationally recognized for its groundbreaking role in promoting the work of post-war Japanese artists, as well as a quality roster of select contemporary European and American artists. Fergus McCaffrey's rigorous, thoughtful approach is marked by a commitment to discovery, often presenting the work of artists previously unrepresented or misrepresented. Dublin-born founder Fergus McCaffrey has been instrumental in introducing post-war Japanese art to a Western market, including Natsuyuki Nakanishi, and Gutai artists Sadamasa Motonaga and Kazuo Shiraga. The gallery also exhibits the work of seminal Western artists, including Andy Warhol, Birgit Jürgenssen, William Scott, Richard Nonas, Gary Rough, and Jack Early.

In May 2014 the gallery moved from the Upper East Side to Chelsea, now in a bi-level, 9,000 square foot, light-drenched space on West 26th Street. In celebration of its eighth year, Fergus McCaffrey is opening a second gallery in St. Barth (November 2014) and further expanding its global reach with a third location in Tokyo (2015).

The exhibition runs concurrently with a solo exhibition by **Birgit Jürgenssen** on the gallery's second floor.

Fergus McCaffrey is located at 514 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001, 212-988-2200 www.fergusmccaffrey.com

Stay connected with the gallery via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) with the hashtags #FMSigmarPolke and #FMNewYork.

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IMAGE: Sigmar Polke, *Untitled*, 1997

Manipulated photocopy

16 1/2 x 23 inches / 41.9 x 58.4 cm

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