

GALERIE FLORIAN SCHÖNFELDER

Press Release – For immediate release

JACQUELINE DIFFRING Centenary

7 February – 14 March 2020

Opening reception: Friday, 7 February 2020, 6 – 8pm

The German-British sculptor Jacqueline Diffring lives in her adopted country of France, in Châteauneuf-de-Grasse. She will celebrate her 100th birthday on 7 February 2020, and to honor the centenarian artist, Galerie Florian Schönfelder is pleased to present a retrospective exhibition of her work. The solo show will open on the day of her 100th birthday in Berlin, the city where she had her artistic coming-out at the legendary Reimann-Schule from 1937 to 1939. The gallery will show a selection of drawings and bronze sculptures from the different artistic periods of Diffring's oeuvre, which are representative of her life experiences. Diffring's sculptural forms are symbolic of her spiritual perceptions of the world.

'Her work visualizes the linking of biographical conditionality and artistic development. Over the decades of her work, she has built a bridge from Modern Art, to so-called Post-Modernism, to her own position in contemporary sculpture, through the development of her sculptural forms.' (Dr. Matthias von der Bank, 2016, Mittelrhein-Museum Koblenz)

Born in 1920 in Koblenz, Germany, Jacqueline Diffring first studied drawing and painting in Berlin before having to emigrate to England in 1939. She was finally able to resume her artistic training in 1946 when she enrolled at the Chelsea School of Art in London, where she studied until 1948. There she trained under Willi Soukop and McWilliam. She encountered Henry Moore during his many visits to the school, and her interactions with him were decisive. Their intense discourses and shared artistic affinities helped shape Diffring's early practice, and Moore quickly became her most important teacher. Although she was initially tremendously inspired by Moore's work, she soon began to oppose the idea of curves, developing a unique aesthetic grounded in lines and edges. Diffring felt that curves in sculpture were seductive to the observer, distracting from the spiritual essence of the work.

'The topics that fascinate and touch me deeply arise from questions that have fascinated and touched humanity since its existence; the struggle to find meaning in one's existence, the need to occupy a place in the universe, and above all, one's superhuman effort to find harmony - all questions that are open.' (Jacqueline Diffring, 1992, Colloquium Musée de l'Art Concret, Mouans-Sartoux)

'As an artist and a woman in a man's business, Diffring has succeeded in developing a thoroughly personal style alongside and next to the sculptor heroes Moore, Chillida, Marini.' (Michael Zajonz, 2007, Der Tagesspiegel)

'(...), the sculptures possess an immanence that strives for greater transcendence, for a meaningful universal expression that touches the core of humanity.' (Dr. Mark Gisbourne, 2016, exhibition catalogue, Mittelrhein-Museum Koblenz)

In June 2019, the artist's studio was reconstructed in the window of the Mittelrhein-Museum Koblenz, a permanent loan from the Jacqueline Diffring Foundation.

For further information, or to make an appointment for a private preview, please contact Florian Schönfelder at info@florianschoenfelder.com or +49 170 55 23 763