

www.chinati.org
7. Oktober 2011

Jean Arp at Chinati

7 October, 2011 – 29 April, 2012



The Chinati Foundation is delighted to present the work of French-German artist Hans Arp (also known as Jean Arp), a sculptor and a founding member of the Dada movement. Arp's pioneering work in marble and bronze created biomorphic abstraction and demonstrated the unique elegance of his sculptural practice. An intimate

installation of Arp's freestanding sculptures and wall reliefs will be on display at the Chinati Foundation until 29 April, 2012.

Donald Judd, American artist and founder of The Chinati Foundation, disliked abstract art resembling the human anatomy. At the same time he praised Jean Arp (1886-1966) for his passionate sense of a body. In 1963, Arp presented an exhibition of sculpture, from 1923 to 1963, at the Sidney Janis Gallery in New York. Among the 37 works in the show were *Torse* from 1931, *Concrétion humaine* from 1933, *Evocation humaine* from 1950-60, and *Grande Personnage* from 1957. Those four sculptures were fabricated in Bronze. *La poupée de Déméter* from 1961 as well as *Coquille cristal* which is similar to *Ganymède* was presented in marble. The exhibition catalogue (a copy is to be found in Judd's library) includes a text originally published for the Arp retrospective at the National Museum of Modern Art (1962) in Paris. It was written by Jean Cassou who considered Arp's search for unity, for purity and vitality a successful opposition to Cubism. Marcel Duchamp translated that introduction into English for the 1963 audience in New York.

Donald Judd, a major New York art critic by then, reviewed Arp's Sidney Janis show for *Arts Magazine* in September 1963. It is stunning how Judd described the sculptor's endeavor: "Arp's work is nearly always good, and so the exhibition is. [...] One of the interesting aspects of sculpture, and a relevant one currently, is that a good piece is a whole which has no parts. The protuberances can never clearly be considered other, smaller units; even partially disengaged sections are kept from being secondary units within or adding up to a larger one. This lack of distinct parts forces you to see the piece as a whole."

Wholeness was, in Judd's work, a key issue from 1963 on. In February 1964 Judd commented in a now famous radio discussion with Bruce Glaser and Frank Stella, "The big problem is to maintain the sense of the whole thing. I just want it to exist as a whole thing." Judd's important essay *Specific Objects*, written in 1964 and published in late 1965, contained a core statement: "The thing as a whole, its quality as a whole, is what is interesting."

Seen from today, Jean Arp seems to be one of the few ideal artists for Judd. The Sidney Janis show helped him to shape his own artistic vision. Judd, however, never met with Arp. It is uncertain whether he saw Arp's large exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in 1958. Since then, more and more of Arp's major sculptures went to museums and private collectors in the US.

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Notes to editors

Hans (Jean) Arp (1886 – 1966)

Hans (Jean) Arp was born 1886 in Strasbourg where he began studying art, he later moved to Weimar and Paris. Arp was a founding member of the Dada movement and worked as an artist and poet. In addition to works on paper, Arp created an increasing number of sculptures from 1930. Arp saw himself as a pioneer of Concrete Art, a movement that was strongly supported by architects such as Le Corbusier and artists such as Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Piet Mondrian and Max Bill. Hans Arp and his colleague and wife Sophie Taeuber-Arp preceded Judd and other artists in the 1960s. Their major goal was a non-naturalistic art creating reality instead of imitating it.

The Chinati Foundation is very grateful to the Stiftung Hans Arp und Sophie Taeuber-Arp e.V. in Rolandswerth, Germany, for major loans and substantial support for his exhibition. Personal thanks go to Dr. Loretta Würtenberger and Daniel Asmus Tümpel, Berlin.

Stiftung Hans Arp & Sophie Taeuber-Arp e.V.

Since it was founded in 1977, Stiftung Hans Arp & Sophie Taeuber-Arp e.V. has cared for the artistic legacy of German-French sculptor and poet Hans Arp, together with the work of his first wife, the Swiss artist Sophie Taeuber-Arp. The foundation has initiated a number of important exhibitions in recent years, and works from the collection are featured in exhibitions at numerous museums internationally.

The Chinati Foundation

The Chinati Foundation is a contemporary art museum based upon the ideas of its founder, Donald Judd. The specific intention of Chinati is to preserve and present to the public permanent large-scale installations by a limited number of artists. The emphasis is on works in which art and the surrounding landscape are inextricably linked. The Chinati Foundation is located on 340 acres of land on the site of former Fort D.A. Russell in Marfa, Texas and opened to the public in 1986 as an independent, non-profit, publicly funded institution.

List of works in the exhibition:

Grande Personnage, 1957/78

Bronze, Ed. 0/3, cast 1978 at Susse

167.5 x 29 x 26 cm

Private Collection, Berlin

Torse, 1931/63

Bronze, Ed. V/V, cast 1963 at Rudier

47 x 19 x 12.3 cm

Stiftung Hans Arp und Sophie Taeuber-Arp e.V., Rolandswerth

Concrétion humaine sur coupe, 1947/96

Bronze, Ed. 0/3, cast 1996 at Noack

57.8 x 60 x 43 cm

Stiftung Hans Arp und Sophie Taeuber-Arp e.V., Rolandswerth

Evocation d'une forme humaine lunaire spectrale, 1950/60

Bronze, Ed. V/V, cast 1960 at Rudier

27 x 23 x 17.5 cm

Stiftung Hans Arp und Sophie Taeuber-Arp e.V., Rolandswerth

La poupée de Déméter, 1961/74

Bronze Ed. 3/5, cast 1974 at Godard

41 x 15.5 x 15.5 cm

Stiftung Hans Arp und Sophie Taeuber-Arp e.V., Rolandswerth

Ganymède, 1954/83

Bronze, Ed. 0/5, cast 1983 at Rudier

22 x 33.5 x 26.5 cm

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