



EMORY

MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Contact: Allison Hutton
Office: 404-727-4291 | allison.hutton@emory.edu

German surrealist Unica Zürn featured in new exhibition at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University

ATLANTA, GA (February 14, 2020)—The Michael C. Carlos Museum presents *This Strange Presence: Unica Zürn Etchings*, on view February 15 through May 24, 2020. This exhibition brings together etchings and drawings by the German surrealist Unica Zürn (1916-1970).

Perhaps better known for her writings and her photographic collaborations with Hans Bellmer, Zürn was an accomplished visual artist in her own right. She created automatic drawings as well as paintings and sculptures, which were exhibited in four solo shows and alongside her better-known male counterparts in the 1959 *Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme*. Her success was hindered, however, by the male-dominated surrealist world in Paris and the shadow cast by a lifelong struggle with mental illness.

The etchings in this exhibition, comprising Zürn's *Oracles et Spectacles* series, were made after a series of drawings created by Zürn during a 1960 hospitalization caused by a clinically diagnosed psychotic episode. Zürn populated these immersive scenes with transformative creatures rendered in the delicate, linear style that became her hallmark.

A selection of Zürn's drawings appear alongside the *Oracles et Spectacles* etchings, including two original drawings for *Hexen texte* (Witches Text), a collection of etchings and anagrammatic poems published in Berlin in 1954.

This exhibition has been made possible through generous support from Dr. Jiong Yan and Mr. Baxter Jones.

Programs at the Carlos Museum

Join Curator of Works on Paper Andi McKenzie for a gallery talk on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:00 PM.

Images

Unica Zürn (German, 1916-1970). *Oracles et Spectacles, Number 2, 1967*. Etching and aquatint on Japan nacre paper. Bequest of Robert S. Handler.

Unica Zürn (German, 1916-1970). *Oracles et Spectacles, Number 8, 1967*. Etching and aquatint on Japan nacre paper. Bequest of Robert S. Handler.

About the Michael C. Carlos Museum

Since its formal establishment on Emory's Atlanta campus in 1919, the Michael C. Carlos Museum has become one of the premier museums in the Southeast. The museum holds one of the most comprehensive collections in the region with artwork from ancient Egypt, Nubia, and the Near East; Greece and Rome; the Americas; Africa; and Asia as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present.

Through world-class permanent collections and special exhibitions, innovative programming, and one-of-a-kind opportunities to engage with art firsthand, the Carlos Museum serves Emory University and the Atlanta community as a dynamic interdisciplinary center that cultivates literacy in the arts and fosters understanding of diverse religions and civilizations.

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