

GEORG KARGL BOX

Henri Chopin *Lutte Poétique*

March 8 – April 27, 2019

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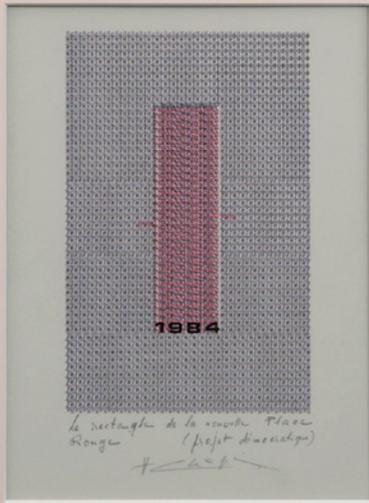
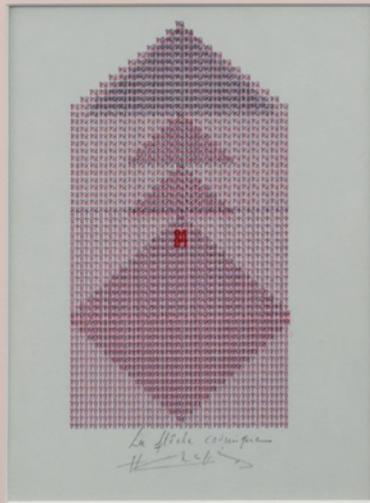
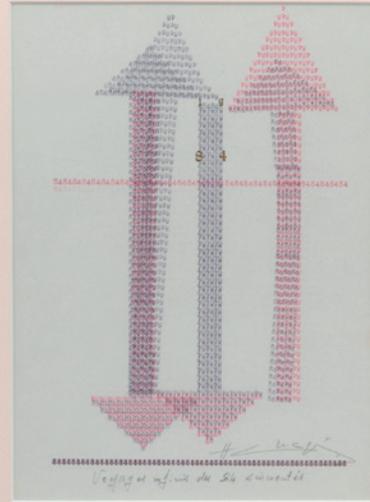
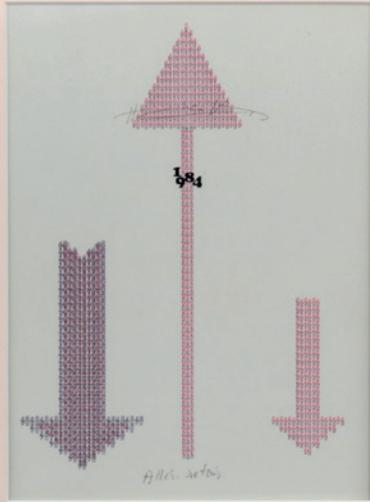
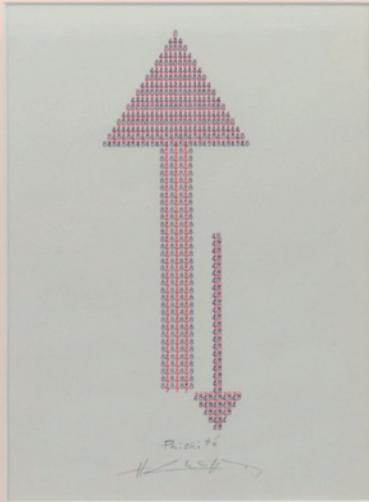
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GEORG KARGL FINE ARTS

Henri Chopin (1922-2008) was a visionary artist, who in his prolific lifespan exhibited, recorded, and circulated widely. A participant in documenta 8, publisher, (OU Review 1964-74) concrete poet, and performer of sound poetry, Chopin was in the vanguard of the literary and artistic milieu of his day. Furthermore, Chopin's visceral art wasn't confined to the printed or collaged image and improvisatory performance; in the 1990's he produced totemic sculptures that incorporated remnants of cut reel-to-reel tapes he used to record and modulate his performances. Set on wooden bases with vertical stems, they're proxies of the human body and markers of a late stage of his career.

Out of the ashes of Dada and Kurt Schwitters' "Primordial Sonata," the sound and visual poetry, of which Chopin is a seminal figure, originated in 1950's Paris and then spread throughout Europe. Its sole aim was to expand the factors of language while transcending writing itself. Chopin himself commented that man's primal language surpasses all known alphabets, pictograms, and idiographics. Thus in postwar Europe a new language had to be born, not of words, but a language of poetry that foregrounded phonic elements that are usually ignored in daily speech. Its evolution consisted of articulated sounds of words and letters, the noise of breathing, the timbre of a spoken word and the vibrato of the throat.

Chopin the sound artist is a cyclone of force at once unleashed and regulated; the sound is a most peculiar, yet singular utterance radiating from the caverns of his body. These ranging modulated sounds linger in the open air; a lilting wail at one moment, a steamy torrent of combustion at other intervals. Staccato rhythms carry momentum, then, sudden breaks in the recordings flow into transitions with spatial dynamics. A ping here, a low grating hum there, then the briefest of breathing pauses as a silent note before accelerating, then decelerating, and at last fading into the void. In these meaningful sounds and vocal gesticulations you may perceive the shapes and forms of the unseen senses of man. Chopin uses his body as an instrument like a fine-tuned cello or mellifluous violin. All of the stimuli of external and internal sense receptors audibly intimate variation, tone, and color. Temperature, pressure, touch, pain, vision, hearing, taste, and smell are abstractly implied in these etudes of the senses. From the minimalistic to the near symphonic his sound art is structured and contains harmonic equilibrium. At moments they are ephemeral light impressions of a distant time and place, while at other times the recordings' duration brought Chopin to the limits of his own physical strength. Often compared with Antonin Artaud, he was the volcano and the earthquake that struck his blows in the dark of a dim-lit black box stage. Such powerful audio poems remain benchmarks of the genre.

Underscoring and amplifying Chopin's achievements with sound art, the visual poems, books, photo documentations of live performances, paintings, and sculptural assemblages form the heart and soul of the exhibition; with their graphic immediacy they show an artist in control of his milieu. The enigmatic notations of the typewritten forms have a formal vocabulary and beauty. Chains of letters link and splinter, the concretized form dominates the page, each letter being a rational miniature structure. The dynamism of these concrete poems was replicated into prints, folios, multiples, posters and exhibition catalogs. They emphasize Chopin's visual links with Dada, Futurism, and Fluxus, while also declaring his own sensibilities. He had an engaging way of spacing the blocks of letters into architectonic geometries with Palladian symmetry. You can imagine him with the morning coffee and a burning cigarette in hand. Already at work on the typewriting table he churns out a series of works stained and collaged with coffee-press filters and tobacco refuse.

Chopin as poète maudit was a survivor of WWII internment camps, prison, and a death march. And, just as his Dadaist predecessors, he came of age during the tumult of war, suffered directly from its cruelty, then came away from it committed to an alternate course through his art. He was one of those autonomous saints of the poet stream that goes on unabated. Apollinaire, Raoul Hausmann, François Dufrêne,

E.E. Cummings, William Burroughs, Brion Gysin, Dom Sylvester Houéard, Dieter Roth, and many others can be counted among his brethren. Force unregulated or ill regulated is not only wasted in the void, like that of carbon burned in the open air and steam unconfined by its industrial apparatus. Chopin had the innate ability to regulate this inner force and latent power to summon the velocity of his instrument, the corporeal body. Therein lies the memory of its aches and pains, the knowledge of unspoken horrors, subdued rage, and then a primeval jump beyond the material to elevate it to a transcendental state. Such force was thus corralled into a splendid anima that reached far into the cosmos and landed back on terra firma towards the human sublime.

Max Henry

GEORG KARGL FINE ARTS

Ausgewählte Presse / Selected Press

- 2013 Astrid Mania, Henri Chopin, Supportico Lopez, Artforum, September, p. 425
Vincenzo Latronico, Henri Chopin's "La Crevette Amoureuse", Art Agenda, May
2012 Tim Griffin, Ecstatic Alphabets / Heaps of Language, Artforum, December, pp.238-241
2011 Why I am the author of sound poetry and free poetry, Nero, No. 27, Autumn, pp.59-66
2009 Limitless Voice(s), Intensive Bodies: Henri Chopin's Poetics of Expansion, Mosaic, Vol. 42, No. 2
1983 Nicholas Zurbrugg, The Limitations of Letterisme: An Interview with Henri Chopin, Visible

Ausgewählte Publikationen / Selected publications

- 2015 En Guises d'Autobiographie Forcément Incomplète, Lemon Melon & Richard Saltoun Gallery, London
2014 Henri Chopin, De la Démocratie / Of Democracy, Motto Books & Supportico Lopez, Berlin
2013 Anton Voyls Fortgang/A Void, Henri Chopin, Guy De Cointet and Channa Horwitz, Spector Books, pp.27-29, Leipzig
2008 Ed. Giannantonio Morghen, Henri Chopin, Espace Frémessant, Associazione Renzo Cortina, Milan
2007 Le Cahier du Refuge 162, Centre International de Poésie, Marseille
2006 Graphpoemesmechine, Zero Gravità, Biella
2002 J'ose! – défier, Archivio F. Conz, Verona
2001 Panorama, Ottezec Editions, Geneva
1994 Hors-l'or (Appel à L'orage de L'oral), Cahiers de nuit, Caen
1993 Ed. Richard Meyer, - & +, Voix Editions, Montigny
1992 NAISSANCE REELLE (clartés de la poésie sonore), Berenice Editions, Rome
Les Hippocampes Noirs, Agius Editions, Geneva
Ed. Henri Chopin and Paul Zumthor, Les Riches Heures de l'Alphabet, Edition Traversière, Paris
Ed. Nicholas Zurbrugg and Marlene Hall, Henri Chopin, Queensland College of Art Gallery
1991 Alphabet pour Gratte-Ciel, Galerie Jordan Editions, Paris
L'esperluette et le Couillard (Légende), Atelier d'art LP Rougier Editions, Ivry-sur-Seine
Poème Froufrouant Électronique, Lô „le bibelot“ Editions, Verson
1990 Squelette du Verbe et Alentour, B.G. Lafabrie Editions, Paris
Graphèmes en Vibrance, Petit Classique du Grand Pirate Editions, Chelles
Mil 1000 Mille Dates, Guy Schraenen Editions, Antwerp
Squelette du verbe et alentour, B.G. Lafabrie Editions, Paris
1987 Petit Livre des Riches Heures Signistes et Sonores, J & J Donguy Editions, Paris
Passementeries, Ottezec Editions, Nîmes
Henri Chopin, Galerie Brigitte Schéhadé, Paris
1986 Ray to the Rays, Francesco Conz, Verona
1985 La Conference de Yalta, Edizioni Morra, Naples
1984 Enluminures, Edizioni Morra, Naples
The Last Book of the Rich Alphabetical Hours of the Chopins, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow
1982 Concerto en Zhopin Mineur, Artista, Paris
16 Typewriter Poems, Edition Armin Hundertmark, Cologne
1980 Three Tubes, Coriander Studio, London
1979 Henri Chopin – Poésie Sonore Internationale, Jean-Michel Place Editions, Paris
1978 Portfolio Chopin, Editions Ottezec. w/ Cozette De Charmoy and William S. Burroughs, Geneva

- 1976 Henri Chopin, The Cosmographical Lobster: A Poetical Novel, Gaberbocchus Press, London
1975 À propos de OU, Revue OU/Cinquième Saison, E. Veys Editions, Tielt

- Chronique 74, Revue OU/Cinquième Saison, Ingatestone
Portrait des 9 (Marche Commun), Guy Schraenen Editions, Antwerp
Signs/Signes, Ruby Editions, London
1974 Henri Chopin: Ideas Gallery. Graphics, Objects and Other Poems, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
1972 Le Cimetièrre, Henry Fagne Editions, Brussels
Ceolfrith 18, Ceolfrith Press, Sunderland
1970 Le Dernier Roman du Monde, Cyanuur Editions, Brussels
Pêche de Nuit. Notes for 45rpm record in Le Dernier Roman du Monde, Editions Cyanuur, Wetteren
1969 Uncorrect poem for Henri Chopin, Openings Press, Woodchester
1967 Why I am the Author of Sound Poetry and Free Poetry
Festival de Fort Boyard, in: Revue OU 30/31, Musée d'art Moderne, Paris
1958 Ed. Tour de Feu, Chants de Nuit. Jarnac
L'arriviste, Caractères, Paris
1957 Présence, Revue Poésie Nouvelle, Paris
Regard Tota
Chants de Nuit, Tour de Feu, Jarnac
Signes, Caractères, Paris

Ausgewählte Diskografie / Selected discography

- 1994 Staccati en glissando: pour une voix humaine (radiophonic music)
Henri Chopin, les 9 saintes-phonies: a retrospective
1979 Les Chuitantes Respirant
1973 You Vetigo Vertige
1972 Poésie Sonore, S Press
1971 Audiopoems, Tangent Records, UK

1



Henri CHOPIN

Lutte poetique ea. formes, 1984
28,3 x 20,1 cm (unframed), 52 x 37 cm (framed)

2



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1983
29,7 x 21 cm (framed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

3



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1987
31,3 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

4



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1983
29,7 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

5



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1984
29,7 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

6



Henri CHOPIN

Interrogation?, 1985
31,9 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

7



Henri CHOPIN

les règles de la Finance, 1987
31,9 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

8



Henri CHOPIN

Entente, 1983
29,7 x 21 cm (framed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

9



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1983
29,7 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

10



Henri CHOPIN

monument, 1984
35,8 x 29,7 cm (mit Passepartout)
29,9 x 20,6 cm (ohne Passepartout)

11

**Henri CHOPIN**

untitled, 1984
60,6 x 25 cm (unframed), 62 x 36,5 cm (framed)

12

**Henri CHOPIN**

untitled, 2007
coffee filter, coins and paper
29,7 x 20,8 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

13

**Henri CHOPIN**

Before de Gaulle, undated
coffee filter, coins and paper
29,7 x 20,8 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

14

**Henri CHOPIN**

untitled, undated
coffee filter, coins
29,7 x 20,8 cm (unframed), 36 x 46 cm (framed)

15

**Henri CHOPIN**

tout va tres bien, undated
coffee filter, coins and paper
29,7 x 20,8 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

16

**Henri CHOPIN**

untitled, undated
coffee filter, coins and paper
29,7 x 20,8 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

17

**Henri CHOPIN**

Creux de Ducreux & fils, undated
mixed media
46 x 36 cm (framed)

18

**Henri CHOPIN**

et l'alphabet, 2001
ink on paper
26.1 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

19

**Henri CHOPIN**

A semaphore in your garden, B, 2001
coffee filter and ink on paper
29.6 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

20

**Henri CHOPIN**

The great empire, 1985
ink on paper
32 x 23.9 cm (unframed), 41 x 33 cm (framed)

21

**Henri CHOPIN**

Lifelessness, 1985
ink on paper
29.7 x 21 cm (unframed), 41 x 33 cm (framed)

22

**Henri CHOPIN**

auto-portrait, 1970
color print on paper
33 x 25,5 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)
1+ 1 AP

23

**Henri CHOPIN**

An esoteric Poem, undated
color print on paper
29,5 x 22,5 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)
1 + 1 AP

24

**Henri CHOPIN**

j'ai un sourire type Robert Altman, 1970
color print on paper
33 x 26 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)
1 + 1 AP

25

**Henri CHOPIN**

Les danses spirituelles, 1992
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

26

**Henri CHOPIN**

Des Neurulas, 1991
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

27

**Henri CHOPIN**

semi-consonne fricative palataie en mouvements géométriques, 1989
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

28

**Henri CHOPIN**

frise muraie, 1989
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

29

**Henri CHOPIN**

quadrille, 1992
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

30

**Henri CHOPIN**

consonne, 1990
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

31

**Henri CHOPIN**

Allée du voyage, 1984
ink on paper
29.1 x 21 cm (framed), 46 x 36 cm (unframed)

32

**Henri CHOPIN**

DESACCORD?, 1984
ink on paper
29.1 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

33

**Henri CHOPIN**

\$\$\$, 1995
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

34

**Henri CHOPIN**

L'esprit, 1986
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

35

**Henri CHOPIN**

3 déchirures, 1993
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

36

**Henri CHOPIN**

91 visions, 1991
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

37

**Henri CHOPIN**

vagues pour l'Europe 1992, February 1989
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

38

**Henri CHOPIN**

Vivre pour vivre Nr. 6, 2007
ink, paper cuts and coins on paper
29.7 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

39

**Henri CHOPIN**

pourquoi, undated
ink on paper
30 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

40

**Henri CHOPIN**

untitled, undated
lithography
33 x 26 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

41

**Henri CHOPIN**

le filtre 124, undated
coffee filter and ink on paper
29.5 x 20.5 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

42

**Henri CHOPIN**

les filtres percés, 2003
coffee filter and ink on paper
29.5 x 20.5 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

43

**Henri CHOPIN**

La gipant, 2006
mixed media
38 x 26 cm (unframed), 54 x 42 cm (framed)

44

**Henri CHOPIN**

Carpette pour L'œil, 1984
ink on paper
29.6 x 20.8 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

45

**Henri CHOPIN**

les folles folies des folies. douze poems er dyptich, 1992
b/w print on paper
4 sheets each 70 x 49.5 cm
1 + 1 AP

46

**Henri CHOPIN**

Huellas en los Andy, 1992
color print on paper, pencil
66 x 50.3 cm (unframed), 82,5 x 66 cm (framed)
Ed. 20/70

47

**Henri CHOPIN**

Hep Hep Hep Cesar I, 1970
color print on paper, crayon
69.6 x 50 cm (unframed), 74,5 x 55 cm (framed)
Ed. 100/100

48

**Henri CHOPIN**

A prononcer en Francais, 1975
ink on paper, crayon
29.7 x 21 cm (unframed), 35 x 26 (framed)

49

**Henri CHOPIN**

Par avion, 1978
ink on paper, gouache, collage
3 works on paper each 18.7 x 28.2 cm

50

**Henri CHOPIN**

Hommage au soleil, 1974
ink on paper, collage
25 x 20 cm (unframed), 30,5 x 25,5 cm (framed)

51



Henri CHOPIN
Obsession des 00, 1977
38 x 25,5 cm (framed)

52



Henri CHOPIN
Fier de ce mot, 1995
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

53



Henri CHOPIN
Le franc concassé, 1992
ink on paper
31.9 x 23.9 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

54



Henri CHOPIN
Darkness, 1978
ink on paper
32 x 24 cm (framed)

55



Henri CHOPIN
Je Mesurer L'air et Je Marcher et Rire, 1969
paint on wood
21 x 72 cm

56



Henri CHOPIN
Le Demoiselle, 1994
wooden objects on board
51,5 x 72 x 14 cm

57



Henri CHOPIN
Le dernier magnete et.., 1994
Tape rolls on board
61,5 x 41 cm (framed)

58



Henri CHOPIN
Verticals et cercle, 1994
61,5 x 41 cm (framed)

59



Henri CHOPIN
Le derniers magnete et après le digital, 1994
tape on board
61,5 x 41 cm

60



Henri CHOPIN
untitled, undated
81,2 x 63,2 cm (framed)

61



Henri CHOPIN
untitled, 2006
 81,2 x 63,2 cm (framed)

62

Henri CHOPIN
Ruby editions portfolio, 1974

63



Henri CHOPIN
signes et jeux, 1984
 ink on paper
 29,1 x 21 cm (unframed), 46 x 36 cm (framed)

64



Henri CHOPIN
Homage to Georg Orwell, 1984
 series of 5 drawings
 78,6 x 83,5 cm (framed)

65



Henri CHOPIN
Homage to Georg Orwell, 1984
 series of 8 drawings
 64 x 90,5 cm (framed)

66



Henri CHOPIN
Homage to Georg Orwell, 1984
 series of 2 drawings
 44,8 x 35,5 cm (framed)

67



Henri CHOPIN
untitled, 2005
 46 x 32 cm x 2

68



Henri CHOPIN
on recherche le tueurs // Les cuisses de greouilles, 1967 // 1968
 color print on paper // collages on wood with black paint
 62,5 x 46 cm // 49 x 18 x 2 cm

69



Henri CHOPIN
Lady...D...94, 1994
 120 x 40 x 34 cm

70



Henri CHOPIN
Espagnol, 1995
 95 x 11,5 x 11,5 cm

71



Henri CHOPIN

Les arbres majoritaires sont stupides: ils sont nus quand il fait froid, 1994/1995
161 x 80 x 11,3 cm

72



Henri CHOPIN

Omaggio a Giacometti, 1994
74 x 33 x 14 cm

73



Henri CHOPIN

L'oeil, 1994
80 x 12 x 12 cm

74



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1994
photo documentation, performance
57 x 76,5 cm

75



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1994
photo documentation, performance
57 x 76,5 cm

76



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1974
photo documentation, performance
57 x 76,5 cm

77



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1974
photo documentation, performance
57 x 76,5 cm

78



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1994
photo documentation, performance
57 x 76,5 cm

79



Henri CHOPIN

untitled, 1994
photo documentation, performance
57 x 76,5 cm