

Bernard Aubertin was born in Fontanay-aux-Roses in 1934. After having studied at the Public School of Decorating, he approaches Cubism and Futurism as a self-taught artist. In 1957 he meets Yves Klein in Montparnasse who inspires him to the creation of his famous monochrome paintings, starting the following year with his first "rouge total". From this moment, his explorations will be focused on red, intended as fire and energy. He features the so-called Tableaux Feu (fire paintings), covering his monochrome red canvas with nails (Tableaux-Clous), wires (Tableaux Fil de Fer), matches (Parcours d'Allumettes) and other varied materials, like candles and iron nets. Through the use of red he transfers the energy of the soul on the canvas thus achieving a metaphysical understanding of painting. Spiritual existence is revealed through the art and such strength is represented by the colour.

In the Sixties Aubertin introduces the element of fire into his works: a means of expression that becomes the physical representation of his red. Many of his works consist of conceptual compositions created with matches that can be lighted up creating natural variations originated by the lively motion of the flame. The creating process of the work is intrinsic in the final gesture. The spectator clearly perceives and experiences the rise of transformation. The destructive nature of fire turns into a regenerating force.

In 1962 Aubertin is one of the founding members of the Zero international movement, taking part in their exhibitions and exchanging letters with Heinz Mack, Otto Piene and Piero Manzoni. He shares with them the refusal of art as a language form and the belief that art must be expressed in a simple and austere way. The red works of Aubertin promoted new energy and vibration inside the movement.

In the 80's and 90's his artistic path evolves in performances where he sets pianos and cars on fire, whilst in recent years the red of monochromes is replaced by white, black and gold. Bernard Aubertin's monochromy represents the pictorial silence: the work of art must not be a description, it has nothing to say, nothing to express. The work of art is a transposition of the existence, of the spirit and, for this reason, it cannot be explained through graphic signs, words, shapes. Bernard Aubertin was one of the founders of the Dusseldorf Zero Group. Since the 60's his works have been displayed all over Europe and in the United States, including the R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam) and the Palais de Tokyo (Paris). His works are hosted in many different museums and also in the permanent collections of the Musée de Graz, Museum of Dusseldorf and the Centre National de l'Art Contemporain (Paris). From 1990 he left and worked in Germany until he died in 2015.

Selected solo Shows

2017

Bernard Aubertin. Situazione pittorica del rosso. Opere degli anni sessanta e settanta, ABC-ARTE, Genoa

2016

RED, The Estate of Bernard Aubertin, De Buck Gallery, New York
Leeahn Gallery, Seoul

2015

Palazzo della Cancelleria, Sala Vasari, Rome
Bernard Aubertin: Von Zero bis Heute, Galerie Heinz Holtmann, Cologne

2014

Galerie Traits Noirs, Toulouse
Bernard Aubertin und Zeitgenossen, Galerie Maulberger, Munich
Bon Anniversaire Bernard! Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris
Monochromes Noirs, Stiftung für Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

2013

Galerie Jean Greset, Besançon, France
Bernard Aubertin – La nature des choses, Musée de la Ville de Nice, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice

2012

Bernard Aubertin. Opere recenti, Palazzo delle Stelline, Fondazione Stelline, Milano
Spazio Espositivo Giardino Agora, San Dona di Piave, Venice
Galleria Civica Città di Desenzano, Brescia

The Mayor Gallery, London
Borghese Palace Art Hotel, Florence
MDZ Gallery, Knokke, Belgium
Galleria Orlando, Brescia
Galleria Civica di Padova, Padova
Galleria Rosenberg, Milan
Galleria CD Studio d'Arte, Padova
Palais de Tokyo, Paris
Tornabuoni Gallery, Paris

2011

Museo Civico Parisi, Valle Maccagno, Italy
Bernard Aubertin – La pittura brucia, Galleria Bonioni, Reggio Emilia
Bernard Aubertin, Galleria d'Arte Rosenberg, Milan
Galleria Kanalidarte, Brescia
Galleria Studio F22, Palazzolo sull'Oglio, Brescia
Galleria Bettini & Co, Vicenza

2010

Bernard Aubertin. Pleins Feux, Galerie Arlette Gimaray, Paris
Dipinti e Luce Monocromatica, Galleria Brolly, Paris
Il Fuoco e il Rosso, Galleria d'Arte Rosenberg, Milan
Rosso Assoluto, Galleria L'Incontro di Colossi E., Chiari
Livres d'Art Brûlés, Artantide, Verona
Poesia Azione e Parole, Fondazione Berardelli, Porto di Santa Teresa di Gallura
Piano et Violon Brûlés, Fondazione Berardelli, Brescia
Sacrifice, Palazzo Ducale di Arezzo
Ippodromo di S. Siro, Milan

2009

Galerie De Rijk, The Haag, Netherlands
75 X Aubertin. Works from 1958 – 2008. A Retrospective, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

2008

Galleria Rosenberg, Milan

2007

Galleria Wack, Kauserslautern
Dessin de Feu, Galleria Proposte d'Arte Contemporanea, Pietrasanta, Lucca
Le Rouge et le Feu, XXVI Edizione Asolo Art Film Festival, Treviso
Energia Rosso Fuoco, Artantide, Verona

2006

Bernard Aubertin. Le Rouge Total, Galleria Cidacarte, Brescia
Bernard Aubertin. Peintures Monochromes, Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris
Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf
Musée d'Art Moderne Saint-Étienne

2005

Aubertin. Die Reise nach Rom, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

2004

Bernard Aubertin. Blanc Libre, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

2003

Bernard Aubertin. Picard de Gennes, Galerie Arlette Gimaray, Paris

2002

Galerie Scholler, Dusseldorf
Bernard Aubertin. Opere, Galleria Cidacarte, Brescia

2001

Aubertin Actuel, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen
Galerie Konstruktiv Tendens, Stockholm
Ausstellung Raumformat, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen
Biancorosso – Il Rosso, Associazione Culturale Area Brescia, Brescia
10 Ans, Centre d'Art Contemporain Bouvet Ladubay, Saumur
Ausstellung en Gros & en Details. Werk con A bis Z, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

2000

Galerie Wack, Kaiserslautern
Galerie Benden & Klimczak, Cologne

1999

Tout Rouge Bernard Aubertin. Zum 65. Geburtstag, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

1998

L'ancien et le Nouveau Rouge. Bernard Aubertin, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen
Galerie Durhammer, Frankfurt am Main

1997

Bernard Aubertin Dokumentarisch, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen
Bernard Aubertin. Le Feu et le Rouge, Ludwig Museum im Deutschherrenhaus, Koblenz

1996

Institut Français de Cologne, Paris
Galerie Schoeller, Dusseldorf
Galerie A – Amsterdam, Amsterdam

1995

100 X Aubertin Konsequenzen einer Ausstellung, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

1994

Galerie Gudrun Spielvogel, Munich
Le Feu de la Couleur. Homage a Bernard Aubertin accompagné de ses amis du Mouvement Zéro, Espace de L'Art Concret, Mouans-Sartoux

1993

Galerie Jousse Seguin, Paris
Aubertin Bernard. Le Rouge. Retrospective, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen

1992

Galerie Von Braunbehrens, Munich

1991

Kunsthhaus Schaller, Stuttgart
Domus Jani, Verona
Galerie Wack, Kaiserslautern

1990

Galerie Gilbert Brownstone & Cie, Paris
Galleria Vinciana, Milan
Galerie Jousse Saguin, Paris

1989

Galeria Oscar Ascanio, Caracas
Galerie Schoeller, Dusseldorf

1988

Galerie Gilbert Brownstone & Cie, Paris

Stiftung fur Konkrete Lunst, Archiv, Reutlingen

1987

Galerie Béatrix Wilhelm, Stuttgart

1986

Galerie Charley Chevalier, Paris

1983

Galerie Donguy, Paris

Galerie Toni Brechbuhl, Grenchen

1979

Galerie Weiller, Paris

1978

Palazzetto dello Sport, Abano Terme

Galerie 44, Kaarst, Dusseldorf

1977

Galleria Rebus, Florence

1975

Studio Brescia, Brescialy

Galleria Il Punto, Turin

1974

Galerie 2, Stuttgart

Studio Brescia, Brescia, Italy Galleria Branco, Brescia

Studio Firenze Art Contemporanea, Florence Galleria dei Mille, Bergamo

Galleria Delta, Salerno

Studio F22, Palazzolo, Italy Gallery Il Canale, Venice

1973

Galerie Toni BRechbuhl, Grenchen, Switzerland

Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix, Sables-d'Olonne

Galerie Seebacher, Austria

1972

Retrospective Exhibition, Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Paris

1971

Galerie Ursula Lichter, Frankfurt

1969

Galerie Senatore, Stuttgart, Germany

1968

Galerie des Quatre Vents, Paris

Galerie Riquelme, Paris

Leine Galerie e V., Frankfurt

1967

Galerie Weiller, Paris

Galerie M.E. Thelen, Essen

1962

Galerie Wulfengasse, Austria

Selected Group Shows

2016 Summer Group Show, Galerie Heinz Holtmann, Cologne

Sur Le Fil, Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris

Zero and Now, Galerie Schoots + Van Duyse, Antwerp

2015

Bernard Aubertin & Bernard Rancillac: De Rouge a Rouge, Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris Destructive Beginnings | Works from Post-War Masters, De

Buck Gallery, New York, NY Martin Gropious Bau, Berlin Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

2014

Belvedere Museum, Netherlands ZERO: Countdown to Tomorrow, 1950s – 60s, Guggenheim Museum, New York

ZERO in Vibration – Vibration in ZERO, Moeller Fine Art, New York

2012

Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Nederlandse avant-garde in een internationale context 1961 – 1966, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam

2003

Minimal to the Max, The Norton Museum of Art, The Brownstone Collection, Palm Beach

2001

Centre d'art contemporain Bouvet Ladubay, Saumur

2000

Art concret, Espace de l'art concret, Château de Mouans-Sartoux

1998

Musee d'art moderne et d'art contemporain, Nice

1991

Museum des 20 Jahrhunderts, Vienna Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund, Germany Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck

1988

Musee d'Art Contemporain, Lyon FNAC, Paris

ZERO, Un Movimiento Europeo, Fondation Juan March, Madrid

Gruppe Zero, Galerie Schoeller, Dusseldorf 1985 Salzburg Museum of Art, Salzburg

Les années 50. Quelques problèmes de l'art contemporain, Centre Pompidou, Paris

1984

Zero, Galerie Lohrl, Monchengladbach

1979

Zero: Imagery of European Avantgard 1958 – 1964, Museum voor Schone Kunsten Zero International, Antwerp

1977 Documenta 6, Cassel

1976 Kunstmuseum, Olten

Kunstmuseum, Bonn

1972

Otto Piene-Lichtballett un Künstler der Gruppe Zero, Galerie Heseler, Munich 1969 Dynamo Zero 1959 – 1969, Galerie Lichter, Frankfurt

1966

Avantgarde Zero 1966, Galleria il Segno, Rome

Avantgarde Zero 1966, Galleria Associazione Zen, Brescia

Zero op Zee, Galerie Orez, The Haag

1965

Zero Avantgarde, Galleria del Cavallino, Venedig, Germany

Zero Avantgarde, Gallerie il Punto, Turin

1964

Nul=0, Galerie Delta, Rotterdam, Netherlands

1963

Zero – der neue idealismus, Galerie Diogenes, Berlin

1962

Nul, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

Zero, Galerie Schindler, Bern

1961

ZERO – Edition, Exposition, Demonstration, Galerie Schmela, Dusseldorf

Zero, Galerie A, Arnheim

Exposition datozero 1961, Galerie Dato, Frankfurt

Public collections:

Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam, Mobilier National, Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris, Ministere des Affaires Culturelles & Fnac, F.R.A.C. De Bourgogne, Musée de Grenoble, Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix des Sables d'Olonne, Centre National d'Art Contemporain de Saint-Priest, Espace de l'Art Concret Donation Alberd-Honegger, Mouans-Sartoux, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, Musée des Beaux Arts de Valence, Centre Georges Pompidou Paris, Sammlung Lenz Schonberg Collection Musée de Graz, Liaunig Museum, Karnten, Musée d'Art Moderne de Klagenturt, Musée en Tiroirs par Herbert Distel, Kunsthaus de Zurich, Archivio della Grazia di Nuova Scrittura, Milano, Museo de Arte Moderno Fundacion Jesus Soto, Ciudad Bolivar, Musée de Dusseldorf, Leopold-Hoesch Museum, Duren, Stiftung fur Konkrete Kunst, Reutlingen, Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund, Ludwig Museum Koblenz, Sammlung Baden-Wurttembergische Bank Ag, Stuttgart, Kunstsammlung Landkreis Reutlingen Kunstsammlung der kreissparkasse Reutlingen, Museum Ritter Stiftung Hubert Schoeller Karlernst Osthaus Museum Hagen, Stiftung Brownstone, Florida, MoMA New York.