ALMINE RECH

Markus Lüpertz
Threads of History

May 24 — Sep 10, 2017 | The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC

Lüpertz is internationally recognized as one of the German artists who initiated a return to figurative painting during the late 1970s and 1980s. *Markus Lüpertz: Threads of History* focuses on the early years of the artist's mature practice, reflecting his unique reconsideration of painting through the lenses of Abstract Expressionism, Pop art, and, more broadly, German postwar culture. Lüpertz, like many artists who came of age in the shadow of World War II, grappled with how he should engage with this recent past and, in particular, what he should paint. The artworks from this seminal period reveal how Lüpertz deftly challenged the limits of painting as he struggled to reconcile the weight of history with his desire to be what he has described as "a painter without responsibilities."

Featuring large-scale works—such as the 40-foot long *Westwall (Siegfried Line)*, on view for the first time in the US—this exhibition brings more than thirty paintings to the National Mall in a striking exploration of one artist's response to a uniquely charged cultural moment.

Markus Lüpertz: Threads of History coincides with The Phillips Collection's exhibition *Markus Lüpertz* (May 27–September 3), which spans the artist's entire career. Together, the two presentations form Lupertz's first major US museum retrospective. The exhibition is curated by Evelyn Hankins, Senior Curator.

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