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Foreword

Daniel and Florence Guerlain have dedicated themselves to contemporary drawing since the mid-1980s. With a great deal of passion and expertise, they have established a collection that is among the most varied and renowned in this field. In addition, since 2007, they have awarded the Prix de dessin de la Fondation d’art contemporain Daniel et Florence Guerlain, an internationally prestigious prize awarded annually to artists who have chosen drawing, in all its facets, as their primary means of expression. The prizewinners are among the most outstanding protagonists in the current discourse on drawing. In 2012, Florence and Daniel Guerlain donated a large part of their collection—a total of 1,200 works—to the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

I have come to know Daniel and Florence Guerlain as a collector couple that is always eager to make new discoveries, meet artists, visit them in their studios, and follow their work over many years. Four years ago, during our major survey exhibition Drawing Now: 2015, we developed the idea together of presenting a selection from their collection at the Albertina Museum. I am delighted that we have been able to realize this project thanks to the profound trust of Daniel and Florence Guerlain as well as the Centre Pompidou. Both parties have granted us carte blanche for an unrestricted selection from the collection’s holdings and enabled us to choose highlights for this exhibition which comprises twenty artistic positions and roughly 160 works.

Thus, my deepest and most sincere thanks go to Daniel and Florence Guerlain for their appreciation, their generosity, and their immense support for this project in every respect. I would also like to thank my colleague Bernard Blistène, Director of the Centre Pompidou, for making this exhibition possible and facilitating the loans. Special thanks go to Jonas Storsve, the curator responsible for the collection at the Centre Pompidou, who contributed his expert knowledge to this exhibition, as well as to Keith Cheng, attaché in the Graphic Arts Collection, who also made it possible to view the original works.

In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to curator Elsy Lahner, who conceived this exhibition with great sensitivity, as well as assistant curator Melissa Lumbroso. My thanks go to Kristin Jedlicka for the exhibition management, as well as Kristina Liedtke and her colleagues in the Department of Conservation. Sandra Maria Rust was responsible for the usual smooth running of the catalog production. A big thank you for this as well. Prestel Verlag took charge of the management and publication of the catalog. For this, I thank Nora Schröder and her team. I would also like to thank Chris Goennawein for the outstanding graphic design. I am grateful to Isabelle Dervaux, Curator at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York, for her in-depth essay which highlights the significance and relevance of the Guerlain Collection within an international context. Last but not least, my sincere thanks go to all the artists represented in this exhibition who were willing to participate in this project and enrich the Albertina Museum with their wonderful works for the duration of the exhibition.

Klaus Albrecht Schröder
Director General of the Albertina Museum
Gull Monument, 2010
Weed World, 2010
Colored pencil on paper, 14.8 × 12.3 cm and 14.8 × 14.8 cm
The Marvelous Museum, 2010
Colored pencil on paper, 27 x 21.5 cm
Something out of a Bad Dream, 2009
Graphite, watercolor, and ink on paper, 70.2 × 54 cm
What Wind Blow This Hither, 2009
Watercolor and ink on paper, 70.2 × 54 cm
Study for Bombing Baghdad, 2007
Study for Church, 2007
Ink and charcoal on vellum, 74.2 x 84.7 cm and 75.2 x 87.5 cm
Study for End of the World No. 2, 2010
Ink and charcoal on vellum, 67 × 87.7 cm
2 Heads, 2006
Charcoal on transparent vellum, 94 × 89 cm
Installations view
Fondation d'art contemporain Daniel et Florence Guerlain, 2009
2 Horizonte, Mögliche Farben des Horizonts; Position; Himmelsrichtung; Rotation; Externe Zentren; Territorium; Kontinentalgrenze
(2 Horizons, Possible Colors of the Horizon; Position; Cardinal Direction; Rotation; External Centers; Territory; Continental Border), 2010
Ink, oil pastel, and graphite on paper, 104 × 170 cm