

# BORCH

Gallery

## Asger Jorn | *Linocuts 1933–1939*

Opening: 8 February 2019, 6 – 9 pm | Exhibition: 9 February – 18 April 2019

BORCH Gallery & Editions is delighted to present a suite of 27 linocuts—as yet unseen outside of Denmark—by renowned Danish artist Asger Jorn in the exhibition *Linocuts 1933–1939* at our Berlin gallery.

A suitcase containing 52 linocuts, created by Asger Jorn between 1933 and 1939, was found a few years ago in his brother's basement in Denmark. Jorn had asked him to look after it for him and it only resurfaced more than 70 years later. The plates were handed over to Museum Jorn in Silkeborg, which turned to Niels Borch Jensen to review and eventually to print the plates.

Due to the delicacy of the linocuts, they have been mounted on wooden plates and printed by hand on Japanese Kozo paper. The 27 prints in the exhibition have been selected from the total of 52 different plates and are published in an edition of 16.

The majority of the previously unknown plates shed a new light on the young Jorn. His earliest linocuts were published in a scout and a school magazine in his hometown Silkeborg. Later, some of his prints appeared in the Marxist journal *Frem* under the pseudonym Asger Ilsen. Jorn, who had joined the Danish Communist Party early in his youth, didn't want to be classified as, in his own words, one of the "dogs of the revolution." Most of the plates were cut before he left for Paris in 1936 to study at Fernand Léger's Académie Contemporaine and are reminiscent of German expressionist graphics of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The skilfulness and expertise with which Jorn cut these plates at the young age of 19, is outstanding. The motives show Jorn's humoristic yet clear political mind, providing an insight into his engagement with family, art, and the social issues of his time whilst defining the very beginnings of his narrative visual language.

**Asger Jorn** was born in Vejrum in 1914 as Asger Oluf Jørgensen and died in Aarhus in 1973. Jorn was co-founder of the CoBrA group and contributed to Guy Debord's Situationist International. He worked in painting, collage, book illustration, prints, drawings, ceramics, tapestries, commissions for murals and, in his last years, in sculpture. In 2010, the Silkeborg Museum of Art in Denmark was renamed the Museum Jorn in his honour. His works are held in the collections of The MoMA New York, Tate London, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum New York, and Reina Sofia National Museum Madrid, among others. The Deichtorhallen in Hamburg showed a comprehensive solo exhibition in the summer of 2018. The 52 linocuts printed at BORCH Editions have been presented at Museum Jorn alongside the original plates in spring 2018.