

LE PETIT SALON

Per Kirkeby

5 September – 24 October 2026

Le Petit Salon, an intimate space on the upper floor of the Putman Gallery, is hosting a selection of prints by Per Kirkeby (1938–2018), a leading figure in Danish art of the second half of the 20th century, for its first exhibition.

Conceived as a counterpoint to the gallery's exhibitions, Le Petit Salon is designed to host occasional presentations devoted to a series, a technique or a selection of an artist's works.

A painter, sculptor, poet and geologist by training, Per Kirkeby built a body of work in which reflections on matter, strata and geological time constantly inform his pictorial practice. Having exhibited numerous times at the Venice Biennale and documenta in Kassel, he occupies a unique place in post-war European art.

Printmaking plays an essential role in his work: he has explored all its techniques with the same freedom as in painting.

Created between 2000 and 2017, the seven works brought together here demonstrate the full range of his technique: lithography, colour etching, monotype, woodcut, aquatint and dry-point enhanced with watercolour. All untitled, they allow the image to emerge without the mediation of language — each sheet becomes an abstract territory where forms emerge that evoke rock, landscape or vegetation.



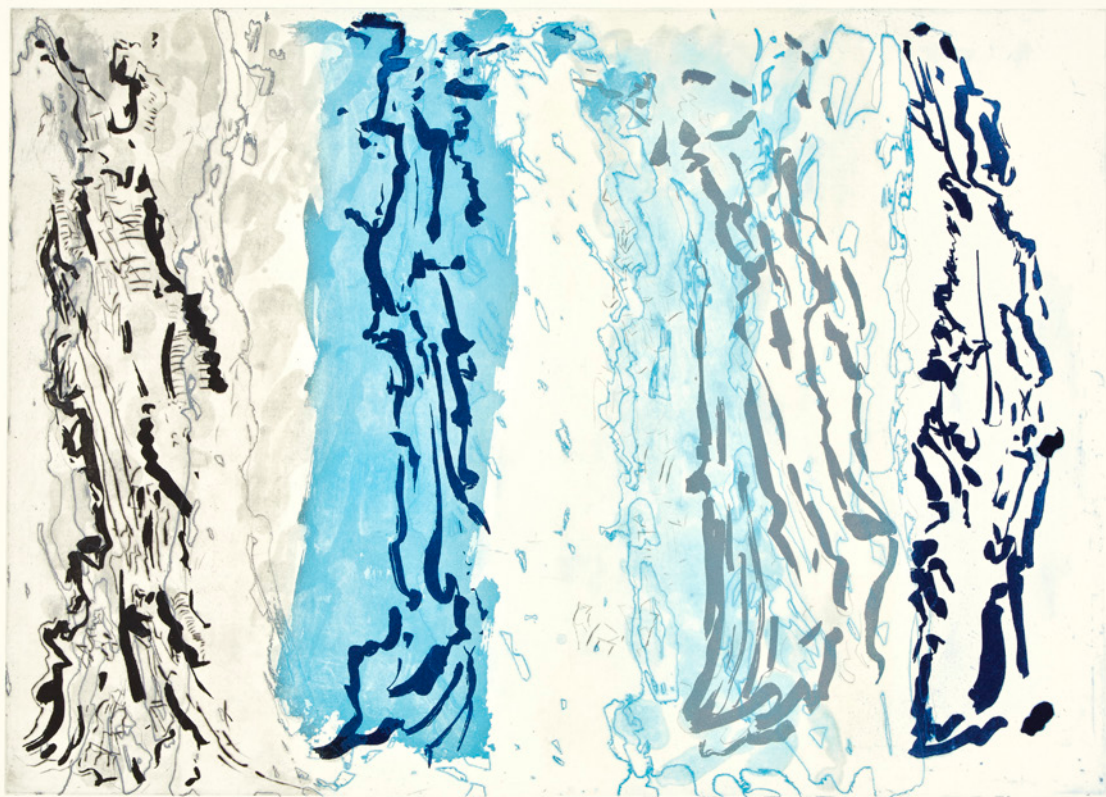
Per Kirkeby *Sans titre* 2000
monotype | 80 x 60 cm
Courtesy Galerie Putman

Engraving is a mark. A mark of the movements of matter. This is the case of all art but engraving is so conspicuously a mark that its presence becomes exciting. A mark of the movements of matter, a mark of the soul—it is nature. Nature is larger than reality. ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Per Kirkeby , from *Bravura*



Per Kirkeby *Sans titre*, 2016
aquatint, drypoint, line etching - ex. : 5/12 | 91 x 78,5 cm
Courtesy Galerie Putman



Per Kirkeby *Sans titre*, 2012
colour etching - ex 7/12 | 72 x 90 cm
Courtesy Galerie Putman

Per Kirkeby (born in 1938 in Copenhagen) is one of the most important painters of his generation. His first exhibition coincided with the completion of his studies in geology, in 1964.

Kirkeby represented Denmark in the 1976 Venice Biennale and later participated in documenta VII (1982) and documenta IX (1992). Important solo museum exhibitions include Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Kunsthalle Bern; Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek and BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels. The artist participated in *A New Spirit in Painting* at the Royal Academy in 1981 and was the subject of a major survey exhibition at the Tate Modern in 2009. A retrospective of painting and sculpture was organised by The Phillips Collection, Washington DC, in 2012.

Works by Kirkeby are found in many museum collections including the Tate, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and Museum of Modern Art, New York, among many others.

GALERIE

PUTMAN

230, rue Saint-Martin Paris III^e
contact@catherineputman.com
galerieputman.com

du mardi au samedi
de 14h à 19h et sur rendez-vous
+33 (0)1 45 55 23 06