

SKARSTEDT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOMAS SCHÜTTE
FRAUEN

OPENING RECEPTION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 6-8PM
550 West 21st Street



Skarstedt is pleased to announce a multimedia exhibition of works from Thomas Schütte's *Frauen* series, featuring both sculptures and a suite of etchings. Over the course of a decade, Schütte produced a group of 18 monumental sculptures made of bronze, steel and aluminum. Utilizing traditional materials and methods of production, Schütte created visceral works that thoroughly examine and expand the relationship between the female form and sculpture, and are amongst the artist's best known and highly praised work. Schütte's etchings from 2006 introduce an intimate vantage point on the *Frauen* figures with delicate details, juxtaposed with the immediate physicality of the sculptures on which they are based. *Frauen* will be on view at Skarstedt Chelsea (550 West 21st Street) from September 15th through October 22nd, 2016.

These expansively scaled sculptures were derived from a selection of ceramic models Schütte made between 1997 and 1999. Beginning at such a modest size, and working with a malleable material such as clay, enabled the artist to submit these forms into contortions and spatial abstractions that appear otherworldly in this monumental scale. A number of these recumbent figures call to mind classic female nudes, while others are so distorted that the female shape is barely recognizable having been brutally transformed.

Schütte takes on this highly charged subject matter with his characteristic skepticism, constantly questioning the perception and purpose of art throughout history. He considers the complex relationship between the male gaze and depiction of the female nude by

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introducing contradictions, such as power and vulnerability. The women are staged on platforms as victims of the attitudes of a male dominated past, yet simultaneously maintain a striking presence in scale, commanding respect from their audience.

This study, which expands our understanding of the female form, continues the lineage of his predecessors Henry Moore, Aristide Maillol, and Auguste Rodin in the 19th and 20th centuries, with the artist's inimitable unique and subversive black humor.

Image Credit: Thomas Schütte, *Bronzefrau Nr. 1*, 1999-2000. Patinated bronze, steel. 63 x 49 1/4 x 98 7/16 inches (160 × 125 × 250 cm). © 2016 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn. Courtesy Private Collection.

About Skarstedt

Skarstedt (20 E. 79th Street, New York, NY) was founded in 1994 by Per Skarstedt to mount historical exhibitions by Contemporary European and American artists that had become the core of his specialty in Sweden and New York in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The New York gallery's program focuses on artists of the late Twentieth Century whose work explores concepts such as representation, authorship, identity, and sexual politics across a wide-range of media. Skarstedt's unique relationship with artists allows it to present exhibitions both on the primary and secondary markets, creating a dialogue between the generations.

Skarstedt opened its London space at 23 Old Bond Street in 2012 with the inaugural exhibition *Andy Warhol: The American Indian*. Skarstedt London presents exhibitions and publications devoted to the gallery's established area of expertise while also seeking to evolve and expand its focus. Skarstedt is committed to sharing both its aesthetic perspective and philosophical approach through high-quality exhibitions and collaborations with top international museums and private collections.

Skarstedt opened its Chelsea space at 550 W. 21st Street in May 2014 with the inaugural exhibition *Klein and Warhol: Fire and Oxidation Paintings*, adding to the gallery's existing locations on New York's Upper East Side and in London. The additional gallery space enables Skarstedt to expand on its core program of museum-quality, historically researched exhibitions from modern and contemporary masters.

The gallery works with the following artists and artists' estates: Justin Adian, Francis Bacon, John Baldessari, Georg Baselitz, George Condo, Carroll Dunham, Eric Fischl, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, Lucio Fontana, Günther Förg, Keith Haring, Jenny Holzer, Mike Kelley, Martin Kippenberger, Yves Klein, Barbara Kruger, Louise Lawler, Sherrie Levine, Robert Mapplethorpe, Juan Muñoz, Cady Noland, Albert Oehlen, Richard Prince, David Salle, Thomas Schütte, Cindy Sherman, Rosemarie Trockel, Andy Warhol, Franz West, and Christopher Wool.

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