

## PIERRE ALECHINSKY

(Born 1927)

Pierre Alechinsky's affinity with poetry goes back to the time when he studied book illustration and typography at the School of Architecture and Applied Arts in Brussels in 1944.

The painter often finds his inspiration in the interface between astrology and astronomy, in the fascination of science and magic, of rationalism and imagination, of description and mysticism, of structure and chaos. Lightly and with somnambulistic fleetingness Alechinsky then places signs in black ink into his cosmos. Echoes of objects, animals or figures appear, but always remain fleeting, barely tangible, a hint of a thought.



- 1927            The Belgian artist Pierre Alechinsky is born on October 19, 1927 as a son of Russian-Jewish immigrants in Brussels.
  
- 1944-46       He studied book illustration and typography at the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et des Arts Décoratifs* in Brussels.
  
- 1947           He joined the *Jeune Peinture Belge* group and had his first one-man exhibition in the Galerie Lou Cosyn in Brussels.
  
- 1949           He became the youngest member of the Cobra movement after meeting Christian Dotremont; with a number of artist friends he set up a kind of research center and meeting-place in Brussels, the Ateliers du Marais. He designed the third edition of the CoBrA magazine and a poster for the festival of experimental and poetic film.
  
- 1951           The CoBrA group dispersed; with his wife Michèle "Micky" Dendal he moved to Paris. Became increasingly involved in drawing and calligraphy; at this time, his work is already characterised by graphic, ornamental elements.
  
- 1954           Alechinsky met the Chinese artist Walasse Ting and intensified his explorations into the art of Asian ink painting. He worked for the Japanese calligraphy magazine "Bokubi" and had his first one-man show is set up in Paris.
  
- 1955           He traveled to Japan to study the art of calligraphy and to make a film in Tokyo and Kyoto ("Calligraphie japonaise") which is about the traditional art. He also worked on the film "Encre" ("Ink") together with Karel Appel and Walasse Ting.

- 1957 Received an award at the international art festival in Bergamo. He made his first large works on paper in Indian ink and afterwards mounted the paper on canvas.
- 1960 He is awarded Hallmark Price.
- 1963 Moved to Bougival near Paris, France.
- 1965 For the first time Alechinsky adds his *remarques marginales* to an acrylic painting, that is *Central Park* (1965), which was made during a visit to New York City.
- 1966 Awarded the prize of the Triennale de la Gravure in Belgium.
- 1968 Awarded the Grand Prix Marzotto-Europe in Italy.
- 1976 Received the Andrew W. Mellon Prize from the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh for his life's work.
- 1983 Alechinsky named professor at the *Ecole nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts* in Paris until 1987.
- 1984 Journey to China; awarded Herbert Boeckl Prize in Salzburg.
- 1985 Wall design in the lobby of the Parisian ministry of education and cultural affairs.
- 1994 Was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Brussels.
- 2006 Awarded Knight of the Legion of Honour
- 2018 Was honoured with Praemium Imperiale

Pierre Alechinsky lives and works in Bougival near Paris as well as in Labosse (Picardie). Additionally, he also works as a scriptwriter.

#### Exhibitions (Selection)

- 2024 *Alechinsky: Pinceau voyageur*, Fondation Boghossian, Brussels
- 2022 *Confrontation: Keith Haring and Pierre Alechinsky*, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA  
*Pierre Alechinsky: Beyond Alechinsky*, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA
- 2021 *Pierre Alechinsky: Carta Canta*, Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019/20 *Alechinsky en el país de la tinta. Dibujar es interrogarse*, Centre Pompidou Malaga, Malaga, Spain
- 2018 *Pierre Alechinsky: Plan de vol et autres voyages*, Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France



- 2017 *Pierre Alechinsky*, National Museum of Art, Osaka (Kokuritsu Kokusai Bijutsukan), Osaka, Japan
- 2016/17 *Pierre Alechinsky: Post Cobra*, Cobra Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2015 *Pierre Alechinsky*, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain
- 2012 *pierre alechinsky: from the collection*, Museum Jorn, Silkeborg, Denmark
- 2011 *Pierre Alechinsky: Flora Danica*, Museum Jorn, Silkeborg, Denmark
- 2009 *post COBRA Alechinsky Appel Jorn*, Essl Museum (Sammlung Essl), Klosterneuburg, Austria
- 2007 *Alechinsky from A to Y*, Musée d'Art Moderne Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
- Pierre Alechinsky*, The Faroe Islands Art Museum, Thorshavn, Denmark
- 2006 *Pierre Alechinsky*, Galerie Lelong - Paris, Paris, France
- Pierre Alechinsky*, Galeri Nev - Ankara, Ankara, Turkey
- Alechinsky*, Carl-Henning Pedersen og Else Alfelts Museum, Herning, Denmark
- 2005 *Les impressions de Pierre Alechinsky*, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France
- 2004 *Dessins de cinq décennies*, Centre Pompidou - Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France
- 2000 *Pierre Alechinsky - Rétrospective*, Museum Voor Moderne Kunst (PMMK), Oostende, Belgium
- 1999 *Pierre Alechinsky - Le pinceau voyageur*, Bawag Foundation, Wien, Österreich
- 1998 *Pierre Alechinsky - Rétrospective*, Galerie nationale du Jeu du Paume, Paris, France
- 1987 *Margin and Center*, Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 1981 *Pierre Alechinsky: A Print Retrospective*, MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY, USA
- 1975 *Alechinsky – dix ans de peinture à l'acrylique*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France
- 1969 *Alechinsky Retrospective*, Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk, Denmark