

PETER BLUM GALLERY

Helmut Federle

Basics on Composition

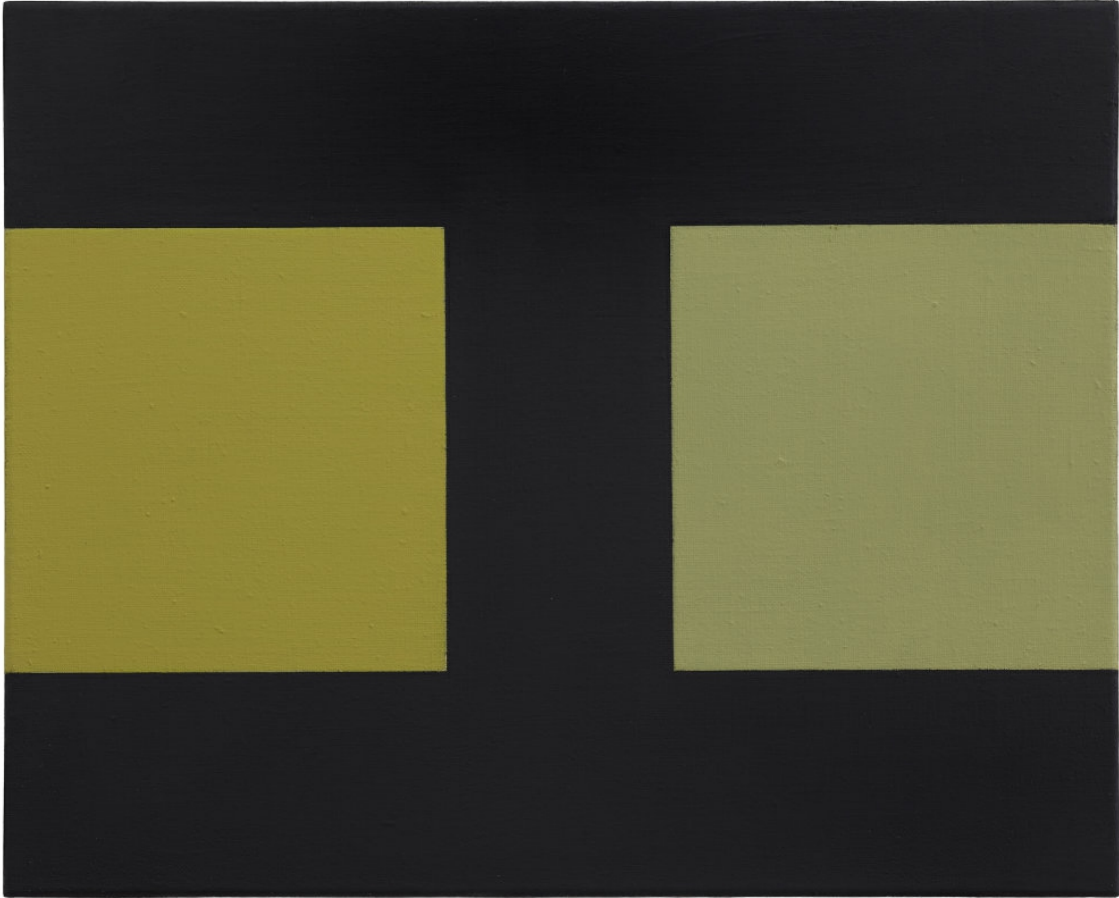
January 16 – March 13, 2021



Peter Blum Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition by Helmut Federle entitled, **Basics on Composition** at 176 Grand Street, New York. This is the artist's fifth solo exhibition with the gallery. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, January 16, from 10am - 6pm.

Helmut Federle has developed a body of work over four decades that is characterized by both painterly and geometric imagery rooted in spirituality, symbolism, and a closeness to nature. He engages in the tradition of geometric abstraction, renewing and expanding it, exploring the relationship between figure and ground, between order and disorder, between movement and stillness. Federle began exploring the "reclining H" in 1979 while living in New York, using the first letter of his first name as its basic, now iconic, form. Subsequently he created the series primarily in 1992 and 1993 entitled, **Basics on Composition**. He has resumed the series since 2019. Each of the variations in the series measure 15 ¾ x 19 ¾ inches (40 x 50 cm) and emit their own unique, emotional presences. The bars of the "reclining H" and the two squares that result from it as open ends on the left and right become individualized, equivalent geometric surfaces that repeatedly reverse the traditional figure-ground relationship and deny balance and cohesion. Gestural entries, both in the dark bars and in the typically yellow, green, or yellow-green squares, formulate among the defined edges, sometimes lyrically and sometimes defiantly. Many of the paintings have subtitles that do not reference their content, rather they are associations and stimuli in Federle's life which accompanies and determines his work. Federle defines his painting as "vegetative" and "climatic" applying this to the interplay of color and form that are characteristic of his seminal work.

Helmut Federle (b. 1944, Solothurn, Switzerland) lives and works in Vienna, Austria and Camaiore, Italy. Federle represented Switzerland in 1997 at the XLVII Venice Biennale. Select solo museum exhibitions include: Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland (2019); Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2012); Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, France (2002); Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany (1999); Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (1999); Galerie national du Jeu de Paume, Paris, France (1995); Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (1992); and Kunsthalle Zürich, Switzerland (1992). Select museum collections include Tate Modern, London, UK; Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland; Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany; Albertina, Vienna, Austria; Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, Netherlands; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York.



Helmut Federle

Basics on Composition XXXII (First Phase Navajo), 1992

oil on canvas

15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches (40 x 50 cm)

Sold



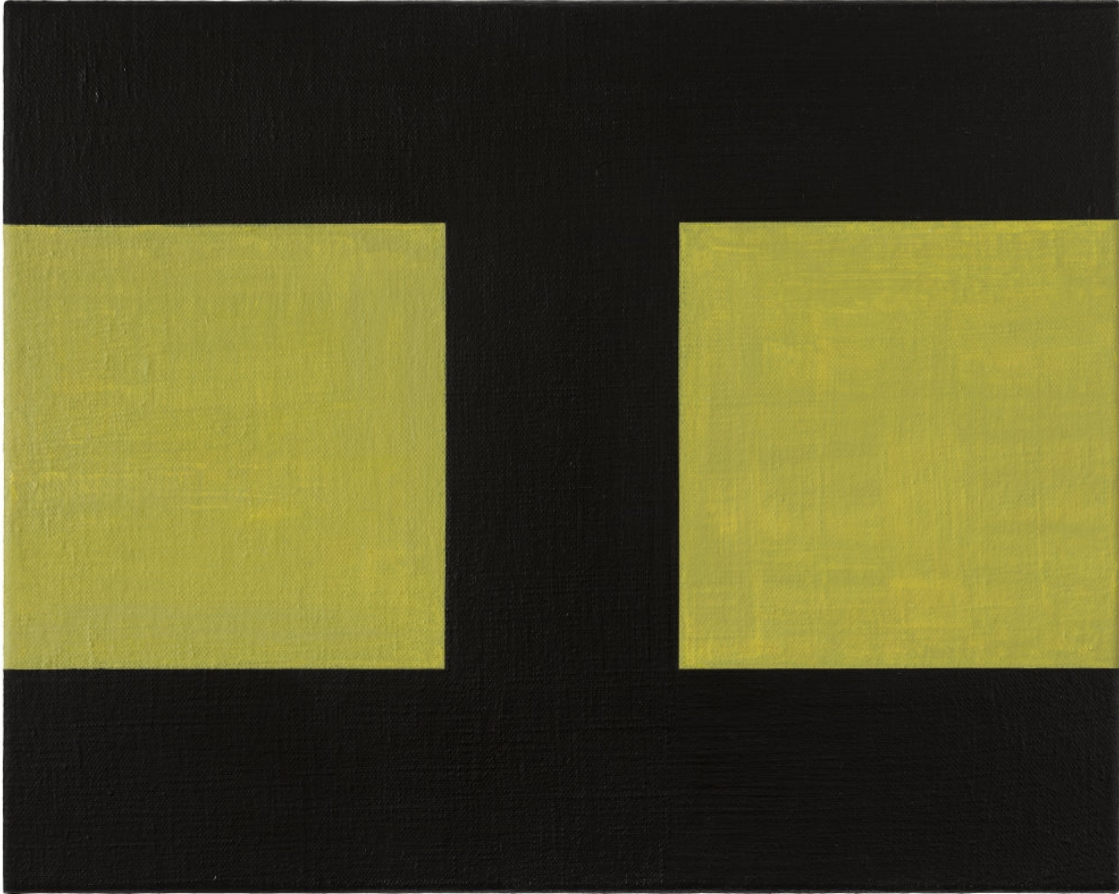
Helmut Federle

Basics on Composition XXI (For Lee Harvey Oswald), 1992

oil on canvas

15 3/4 x 19 5/8 inches (40 x 50 cm)

Sold

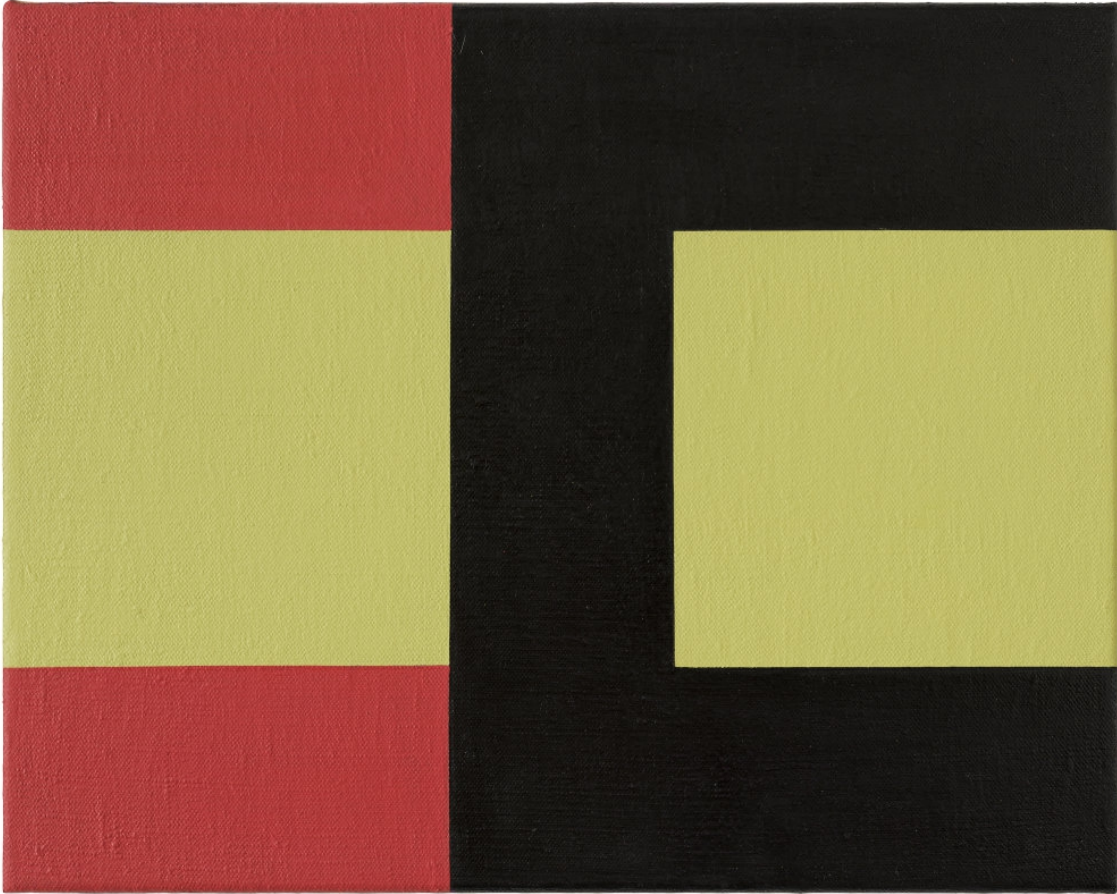


Helmut Federle

Basics on Composition C (April at Kamikochi), 2019

oil on canvas

15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches (40 x 50 cm)



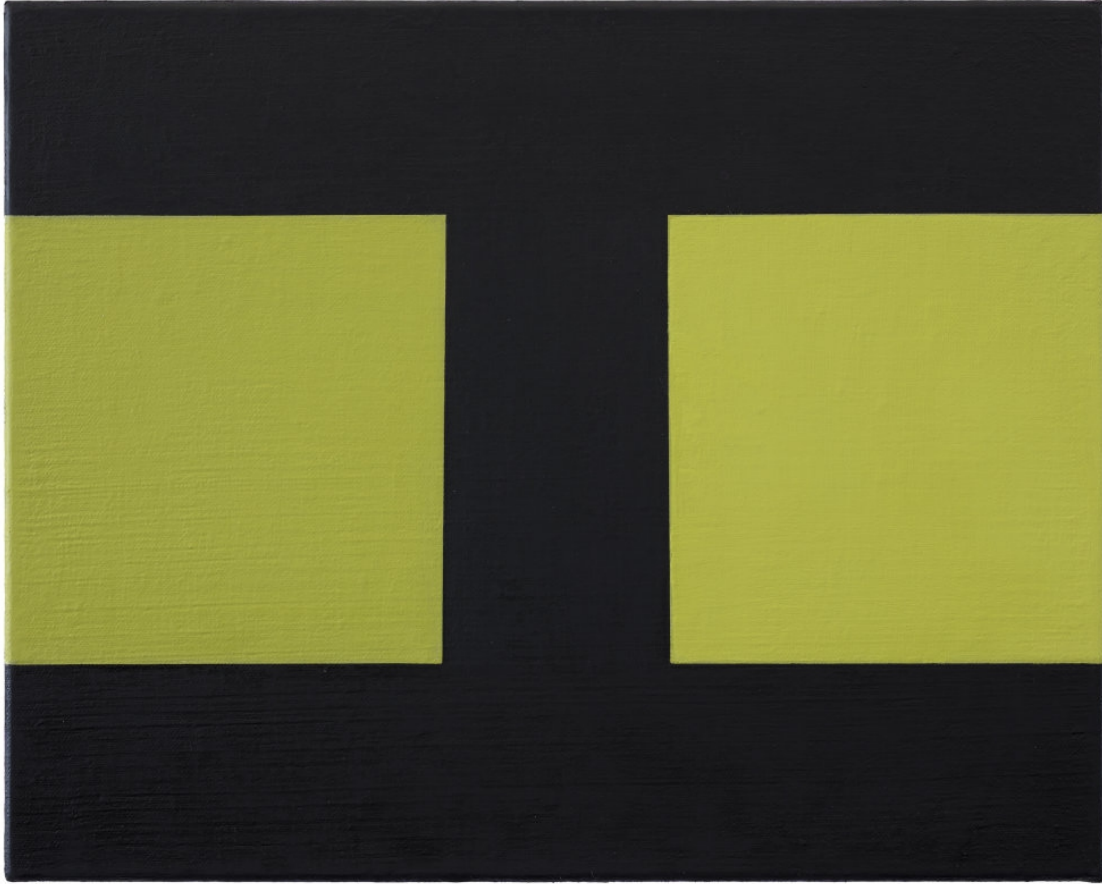
Helmut Federle

Basics on Composition E (Dedication: Musashi Miyamoto 1584-1645), 2019

oil on canvas

15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches (40 x 50 cm)

Sold



Helmut Federle

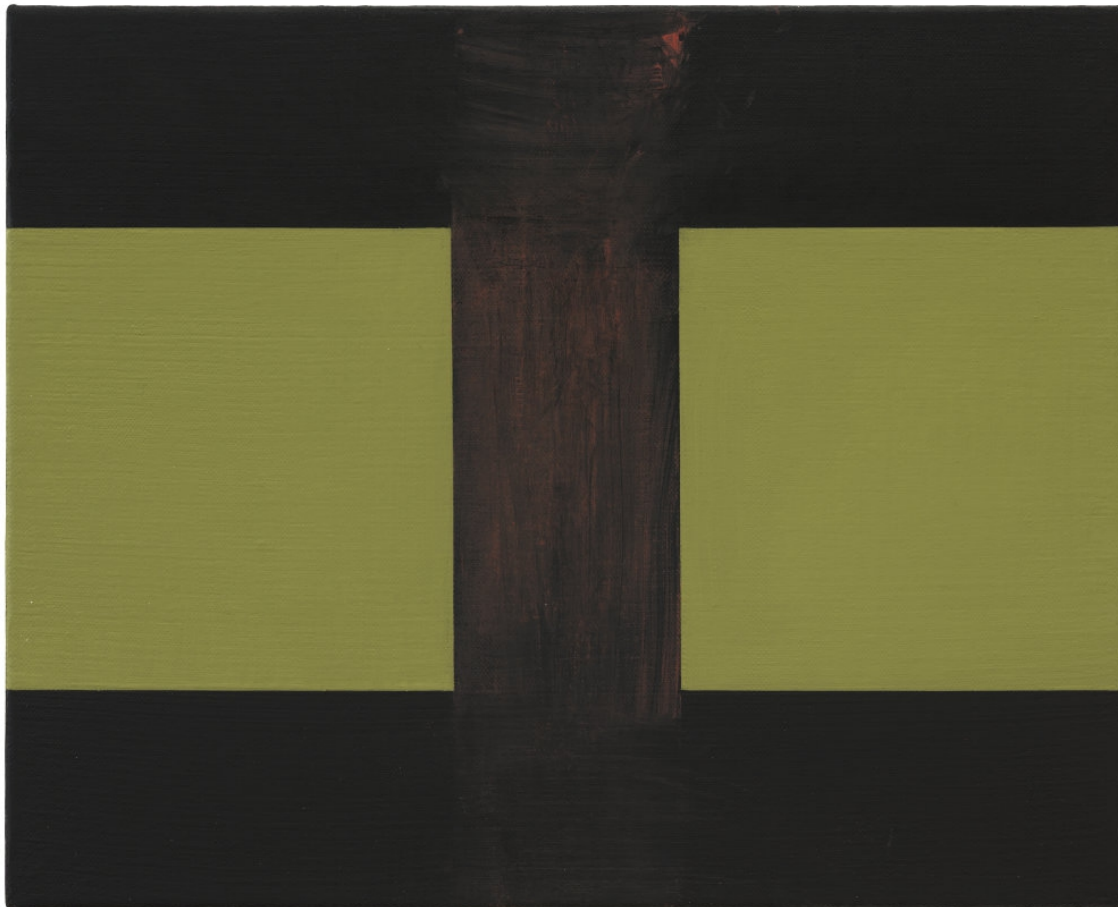
Basics on Composition H (Eight), 2019

oil on canvas

15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches (40 x 50 cm)



Helmut Federle
Basics on Composition I (The Road/Beau Travail), 2019
oil on canvas
15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches (40 x 50 cm)



Helmut Federle

Basics on Composition K (Spätherbst / Winteranfang) (Polarente) (Man of Nazareth) (Disruptive Elegance) (The Vail), 2019-2020

oil on canvas

15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches (40 x 50 cm)

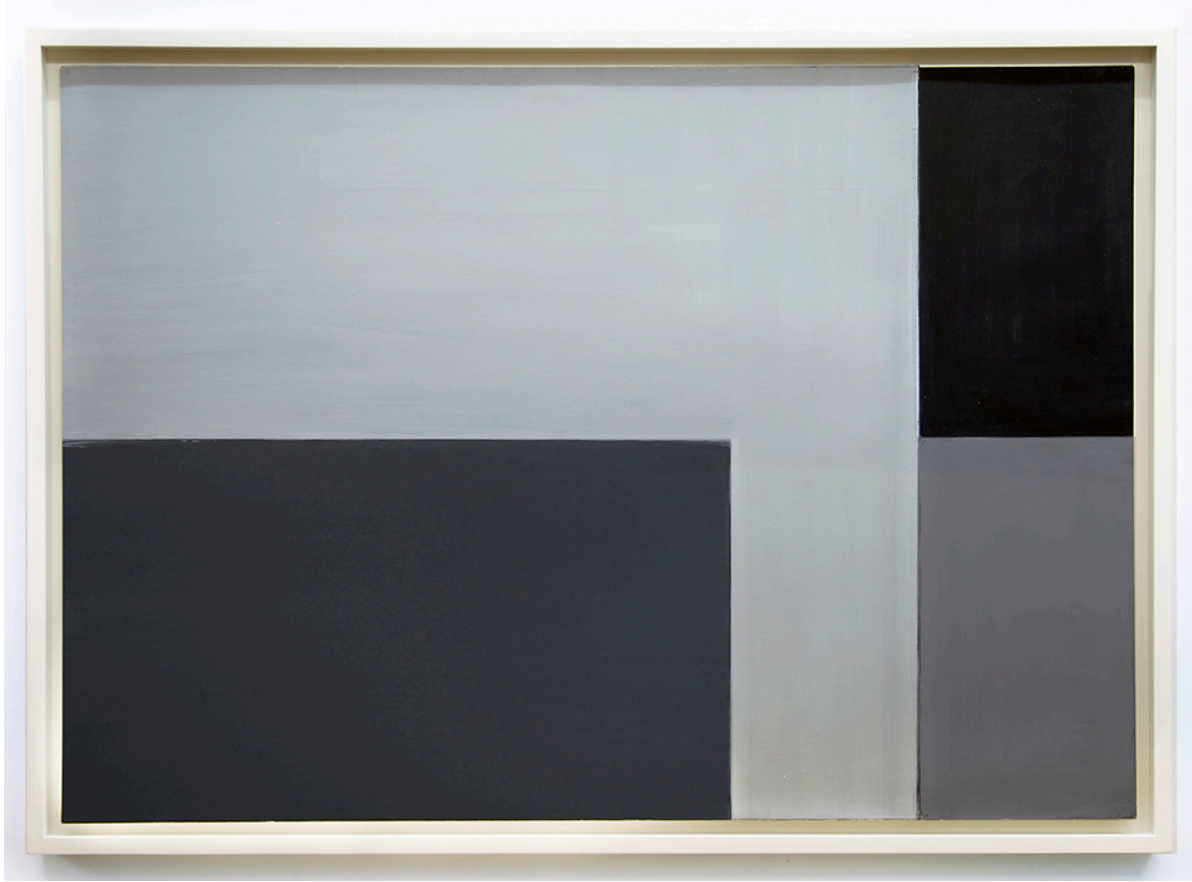


Helmut Federle

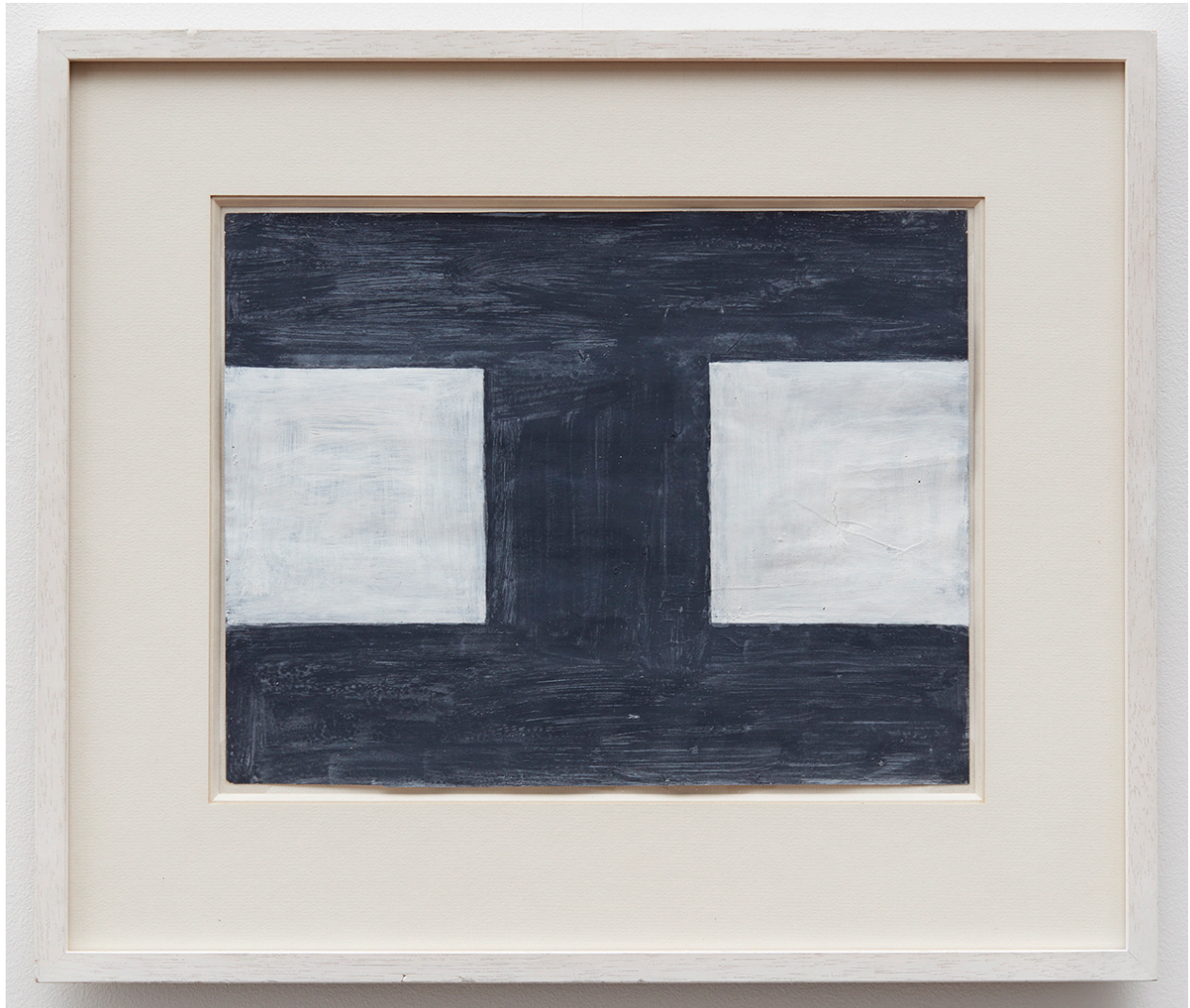
Die Nacht der Krähe (The Night of the Crow), 2008

oil and acrylic on canvas

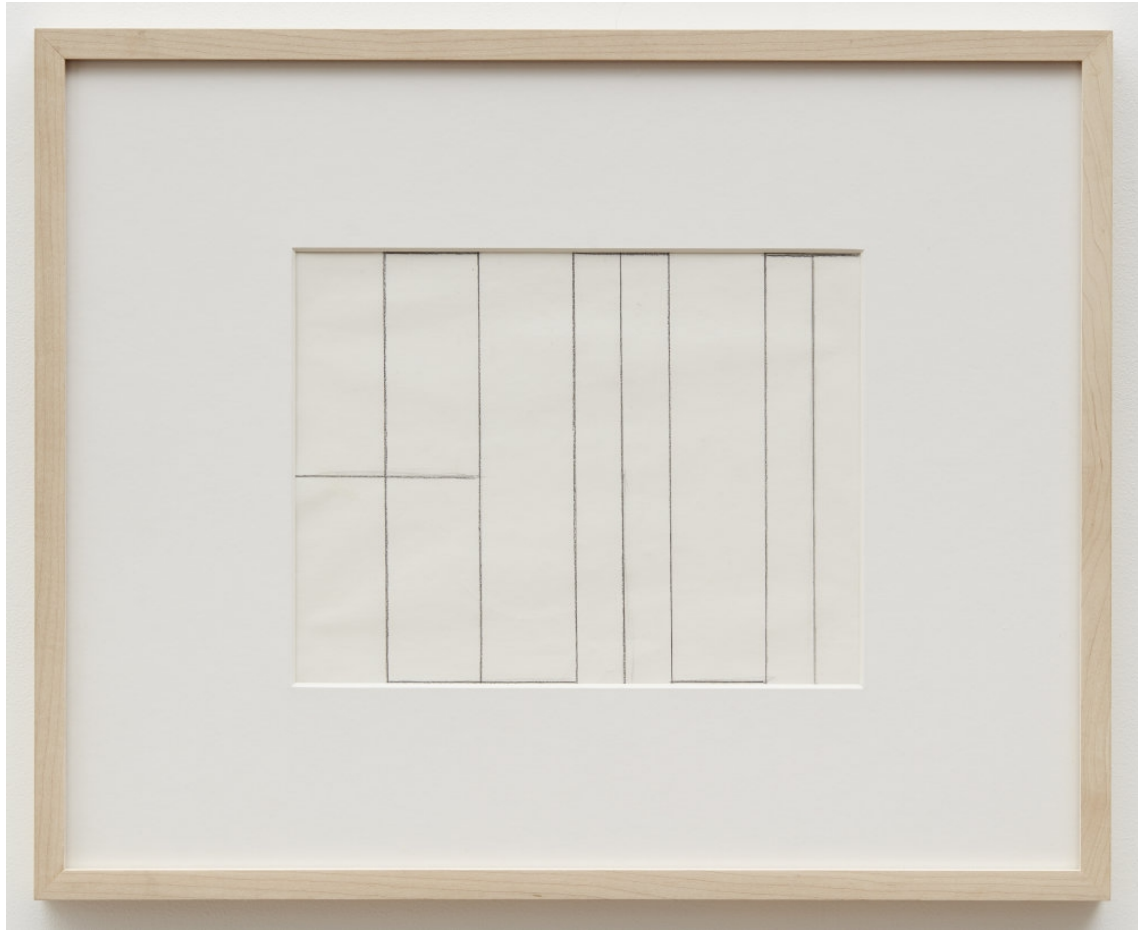
19 5/8 x 13 3/4 inches (50 x 35 cm)



Helmut Federle
Untitled, 1977
dispersion on paper
27 1/2 x 39 3/8 inches (70 x 100 cm)



Helmut Federle
Liegendes H, 1979
dispersion on paper
8 3/8 x 11 inches (21.4 x 27.8 cm)
Sold

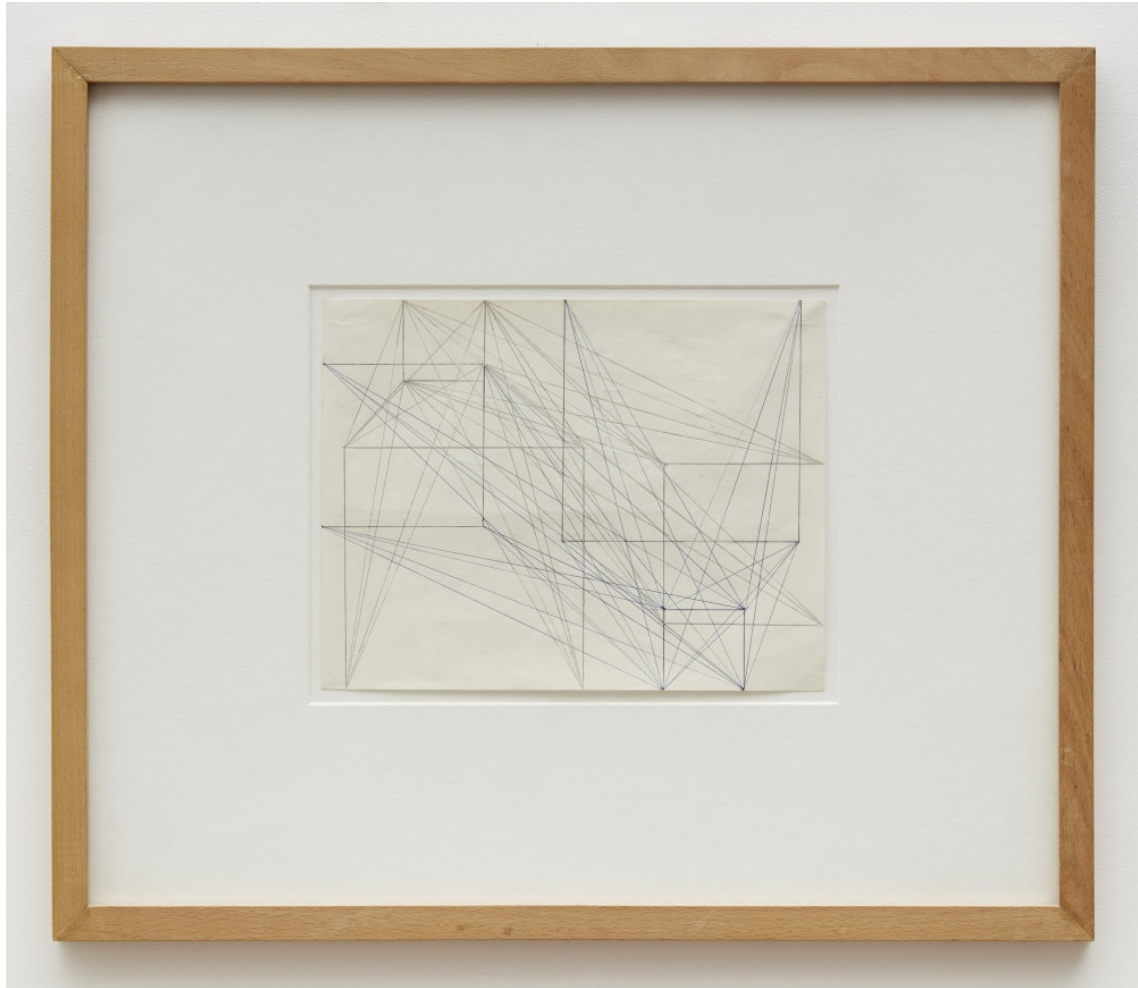


Helmut Federle

My Name as a Structural Design, 1979

pencil on paper

8 1/2 x 11 inches (21.7 x 28.0 cm)



Helmut Federle

Two Side Drawing (Abstände von Ecke zur Form gleichwertig, $1 + 1/2 + 2/3 + 3$), 1979
pencil and ballpoint pen on paper
8 1/2 x 11 inches (21.7 x 28 cm)



Helmut Federle

Untitled, 1986/2020

black and white print on Baryt paper

9 1/2 x 12 1/8 inches (24.1 x 30.6 cm)

Edition 6 of 20