PRESS RELEASE

January 18 – May 3, 2020

**Blinky Palermo: The Complete Editions**

**Ulrich Reininghaus Donation**

Press conference, Thursday, January 16, 2020, 11 a.m., Press preview from 10 a.m.

The German artist Peter Heisterkamp (1943–1977), who named himself after the mafioso Frank “Blinky” Palermo, is known for his objects, installations, and above all for the bright color fields of his fabric and metal pictures, which supposedly directly illustrate what they conceptually question: the sensual qualities of contemporary painting. Less well known yet no less clever and stimulating are works he created in editions: screen prints and offset prints, lithographs, objects, and a template for painting. Palermo made these editions throughout almost his entire career. They not only reflect his development from the 1960s to his early death in 1977, but also represent a deliberate expansion of his work.

In the medium of reproduction, Palermo radicalized two fundamental questions: doubts about image and work, as well as the reflection on industrial form and color implemented in art. The abstract content, the emblematic nature of a concrete form—Palermo’s subject from the very beginning—is even more apparent in print. At the same time, the editions also preserve the real content of the signs, their materiality: what the artist carefully conceived and often worked on by hand during the production process is reproduced. Palermo used the technique of serial production to determine the change in status of art (and this also means his own work) in the age of technology: showing this is the aim of the exhibition.

Thanks to a donation from the Cologne collector Ulrich Reininghaus, since 2018 the Museum Ludwig has been the only public institution to have a complete collection of Palermo’s editions. This also includes all test prints and single prints, which only exist in very limited editions. Now this collection will be presented for the first time. In preparation for the exhibition, it underwent a scholarly review. The exhibition catalogue documents the results: it includes an updated version of the out-of-print catalogue raisonné *Die gesamte Grafik und alle Auflagenobjekte 1966 bis 1975*, published in 1983 by the Munich gallerist and publisher Fred Jahn.

*Blinky Palermo: The Complete Editions*, ed. by Julia Friedrich, with texts by Yilmaz Dziewior, Julia Friedrich, Susanne Küper and a conversation between Julia Friedrich and Fred Jahn, hardcover, 17 x 24 cm, ca. 200 ills., German/English, 29 euros special museum price, 34,80 euros in book trade.