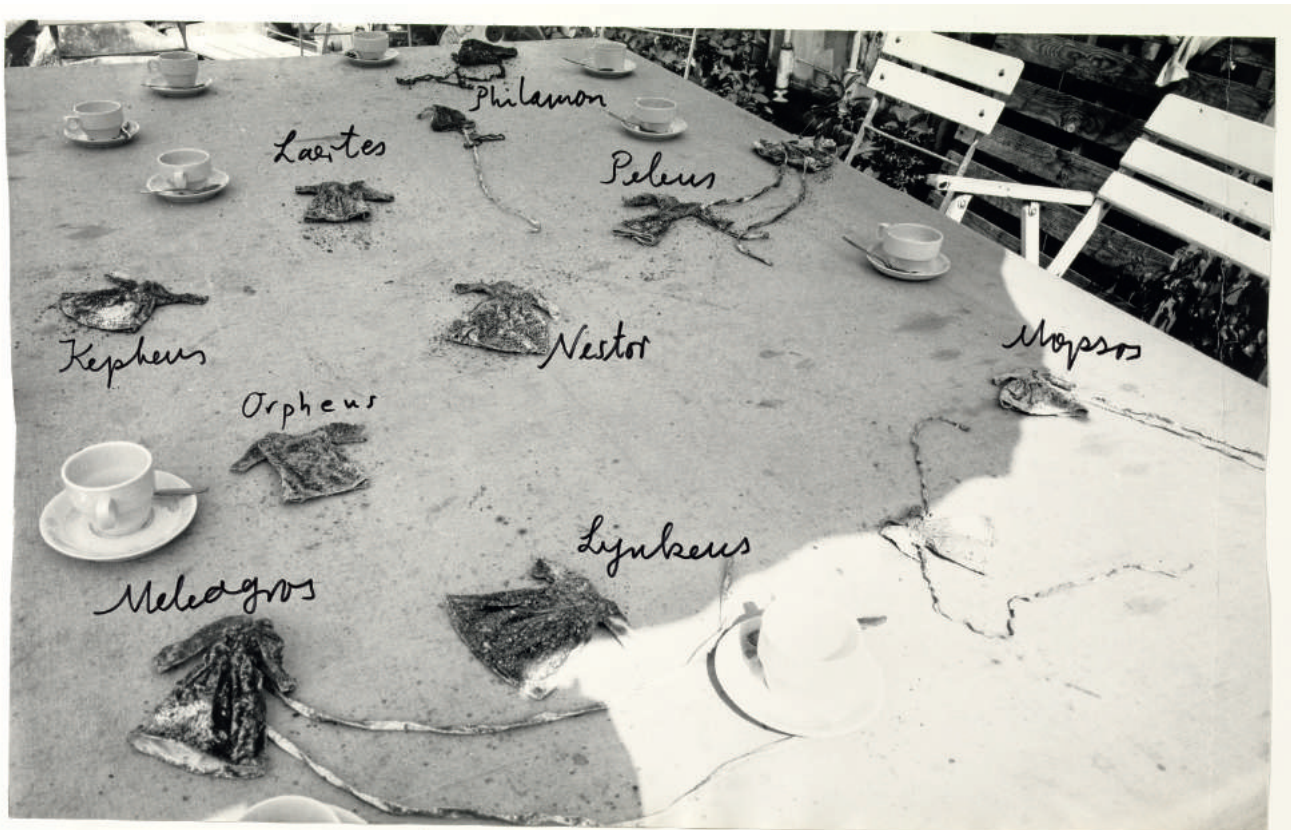


Ivorypress presents

die Argonauten

Anselm Kiefer



Die Argonauten, 1990/2010
Approx. 30 x 47 cm (11.81 x 18.5 in)
Courtesy Anselm Kiefer / Gallery Thaddaeus Ropac / Ivorypress

Exhibition: From 15 February to 2 April 2011

Venue: Ivorypress Art + Books Space II C/ Comandante Zorita, 46 (Madrid)

Opening: 15 February 2011, 19.30h

On 15 February, Ivorypress Art + Books will present the exhibition *Anselm Kiefer, Die Argonauten*. The exhibition showcases a collection of the 27 works, created by using pencil on photographs, which make up the artist book *Die Argonauten*, the third issue of the LiberArs Series published by Ivorypress. This project, created between 1990 and 2010, will now be exhibited for the first time and will be open to the public until the beginning of April at Ivorypress Art + Books Space II.

Kiefer's originals are an up-to-date reinterpretation of the myth of Jason and his search for the Golden Fleece. According to the artist, 'it is a compact and coherent series of photographs', the starting point for which is a 'trivial and everyday context', in line with most of his artwork.

The author began to conceive the creative process after a meeting with friends and collaborators, back in the eighties. When the meeting was over, 'the table looked like a battlefield: empty cups, leftovers on plates, crumbs, stains', says the artist in the text *Anselm Kiefer on Jason and the Argonauts*, included in the artist book published by Ivorypress.

The scene provided the inspiration for Kiefer to recreate –through symbolic and poetic images– the vicissitudes of the legend of Jason and the Argonauts. As a result of his special handling of light, the pictures reflect the aura of the Greek myth that guided Kiefer in this project. A story about men and women's tenacity to overcome any obstacle, 'a myth that each of us carries inside, even without ever having read anything about it'.

From the insignificant to the essential

Anselm Kiefer's works of art arise in an insignificant way, starting as an incipient idea that gradually takes shape. According to the German artist: 'Banality is the best starting point for making your own discoveries and I think the insignificant is more meaningful for the observer'.

Die Argonauten arises from 'a process as normal as having a cup of coffee which, at the same time, can reflect the Argonauts' dramatic fight; you just need to recognise it'. One has to cross the border of banality and identify the underlying idea, the same fight that every human being faces on a daily basis.

Like most of Kiefer's work, this photographic series does not seek to create an interesting or even aesthetic work of art, but, rather, for the originals to allude to the 'underlying layer that exists', the only thing 'that keeps us alive', according to the artist.

These works are now exhibited for the first time and they make up the third show held at the new exhibition space, Ivorypress Art + Books Space II, inaugurated in October 2010, which displays works on paper, photography and special editions.

For further information, interviews and image requests:

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