



## Tom Wesselmann: Picture "Monica half-clothed" (1990)

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This lithograph shows Monica Serra, assistant to Tom Wesselmann and his long-time model and muse. In 1961, Wesselmann became known for his female nude "Great American Nude", the title of which was to become the generic term for a series. From that point on, the nude became the dominant subject of the artist's work.

In Wesselmann's work, the nude lost its purely sensual intention. The artist moved away from the colour-intensive serigraphs, which aesthetically clearly belonged to Pop Art, to the monochrome reduced lithographs. He was primarily interested in pure aesthetics and exploring different forms and methods of representation. In doing so, he frequently referred to the tradition of classical nude painting from Titian to Édouard Manet to Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso, which he even cited in some of his works.

Wesselmann always emphasised the clear lines and colour surfaces in his serigraphs as well as in the steel cuts. However, in this work, the outlines blur into the diffuse and show an almost sketchy spontaneity in the depiction, which is characteristic of Wesselmann's lithographs.

Original lithograph, 1990. Edition: 26 copies on paper, numbered and signed by hand. Motif size/sheet size 119.5 x 99 cm. Size in frame 126.5 x 106 cm as shown.

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