

Remarks by Daniel Hug, Director of ART COLOGNE, at the opening press conference

ART COLOGNE 2025

11 a.m. on 6 November 2025, Koelnmesse Entrance South



ART COLOGNE

06.11. - 09.11.2025

www.artcologne.com

Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to wish you a warm welcome to **ART COLOGNE 2025**.

It's wonderful to see you all here!

This is now the **58th time** that Cologne has served as the key gathering place for the international art scene.

This year, **167 galleries from 25 countries** will demonstrate that the art world remains diverse, vibrant and curious - despite all the challenges around us. Especially in these troubled times, ART COLOGNE - the world's first art fair - is an example of how stability is possible when there is passion and conviction. For this, I would like to express my particular gratitude to our **exhibitors**, whose commitment and enthusiasm make this fair what it is. I'm very much looking forward to walking through the halls and discovering the great variety of art that they will be presenting to us over the next **four days**.

I would now like to give you a brief overview of this year's edition of ART COLOGNE.

Let's begin with the heart of our event: the **GALLERIES** sector.

Here, renowned galleries from around the world showcase modern and contemporary art of the highest calibre.

We're delighted to see many newcomers from Europe, North America and South America.

And we welcome back some familiar names, too. They include:

- the **Cristea Roberts Gallery** from London,
- **Richard Saltoun**, with locations in London, New York and Rome,
- **Galerie Buchmann** from Berlin
- and **Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler**, also from Berlin.

This sector is synonymous with diversity: from blue-chip artists right through to the feminist avant-garde.

I'm especially happy about the continued growth of the **NEUMARKT** sector. There are **34 galleries** participating this year, which is seven more than last year.

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We see this as a clear sign that young galleries regard ART COLOGNE as an important place for dialogue, networking and doing business. This is where all the things can be found that breathe life into a fair - new ideas, fresh perspectives and plenty of energy.

This year's **exciting newcomers** include:

- **Sweetwater** from Berlin,
- **THE PILL** from Istanbul,
- **theSTABLE** from the Swiss Canton of the Grisons,
- **Clementin Seedorf and Cherry Hill** from Cologne
- and **zaza'** from Milan and Naples.

The installation exhibited by **zaza'** is particularly striking.

Consisting of an entirely vacuum-sealed trade fair stand, this institutional critique makes a powerful statement and offers an excellent example of the courage and willingness to experiment demonstrated by the young scene.

This frankness is also reflected in the next area, the **COLLABORATIONS** sector. Here, galleries realise jointly curated projects

and show how cooperation opens up new opportunities in challenging times.

Exciting collaborations in this sector include:

- **DIE GALERIE** from Frankfurt, working with Johannes Heisig and **Volker Stelzmann**, two artists from former East Germany.
- **Galería de las Misiones** from Montevideo, together with the **Sammer Gallery** from Miami Beach,
- **Zink** from Munich and **Galerie Bao** from Paris - with a focus on Vietnam,
- **JO VAN DE LOO** and **Sperling**, both also from Munich,
- and Munich's **Max Goelitz** gallery together with **Temnikova & Kasela** from Tallinn.

There's something I particularly like:

The **COLLABORATIONS** can be found everywhere this year - they're no longer confined to a separate area but rather spread throughout the entire fair.

This way, the theme of working together isn't simply on display - it can be actively experienced.

From stand to stand, from hall to hall.

The **ART + OBJECT** sector also connects worlds, linking art, design and history.

And it highlights the intensity of the dialogue between tradition and the present.

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The area is more compact this year, but that very fact makes it all the more powerful.

Among the highlights in this sector are:

- **Uitstalling** from Genk and Poznan,
- **KodlContemporary** from Prague,
- **VIVID** from Rotterdam,
- **10 A.M. ART** from Milan
- and **Kaune Contemporary Gallery** from Cologne.

In addition to the galleries taking part, there are again exciting **special exhibitions** to discover this year.

Of these, the first I'd like to recommend is the **LBBW** presentation.

Curated by **Barbara Thomann**, "**Klangwelten**", or Worlds of Sound, features over 40 works from the LBBW collection in which art and music enter into dialogue. It's an exhibition that can almost be heard as well as seen.

I would also urge you to visit the **ZADIK** stand.

This year's exhibition is dedicated to the **collector, gallery owner and museum founder Charlotte Zander**, who began collecting works of so-called "naive art" back in the 1960s. The result is a fascinating insight into passion, perseverance and vision.

I can also strongly recommend the **ARTtours, run in collaboration with ZADIK**. These guided tours of the fair offer special insights into selected galleries and works and tell the stories behind them. They are available in German and English; and there are also special tours for children.

Even before you stepped inside **Entrance South**, you will have seen an imposing sculpture. This **monumental bronze piece** by **Stefan Strumbel** is a genuinely eye-catching work and a powerful prelude to what awaits us in the halls.

Once inside the fair, it's worth stopping by the **pavilion shared by art associations from North Rhine-Westphalia**. This is where you can view the "Jahresgaben" - pieces offered for sale each year by artists to support both the work of their associations and other local artists. The strength of the art scene's network here in this region is clear to see.

This year, we are delighted to announce a premiere. In collaboration with Design Post Köln, eight manufacturers of high-end designer furnishings have been recruited to fit out passage 10/11 and the ART COLOGNE VIP Club in Hall 11.1.

The following companies are taking part:

- Arper,
- Ferm Living,
- Klöber,
- Misura,
- Secto,
- Tecta,
- Tom Dixon
- and Wagner Living

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Tomorrow, the award ceremony for the **ART COLOGNE Prize** will take place in Cologne City Hall. This year, **Dr Andrée Sfeir-Semler** will be recognised for her impressive achievements as a gallery owner, trailblazer and cultural ambassador.

The stand organised by the **German Association of Galleries and Art Dealers, or BVDG**, in **Hall 11.1 at ART COLOGNE** is dedicated to this year's prizewinner and will be exhibiting works from her gallery programme. In addition, the **NEW POSITIONS** sponsorship programme will be presenting 19 outstanding emerging artists in the sponsored booths this year. For 45 years, the programme has been enabling young artists to showcase their work to an international specialist audience. Funded by the German Federal Government's Commissioner for Culture and the Media, **NEW POSITIONS** provides sustained assistance to talented artists and facilitates their entry into the art market. We would like to thank everyone involved, especially the BVDG, for their dedication and their support of this important sponsorship programme.

A new satellite fair called **Neu Cöln** is enriching the programme of events connected with ART COLOGNE this year.

Organised by

- Cologne gallery **JUBG**,
- **Arjan Stockhausen**,
- **Cherry Hill** and
- **Nora Langen**,

this pop-up show at **Stoff-Pavillon Moeller** is located next door to the home of Cologne's art association, the **Kölnischer Kunstverein**. It brings together work from 45 artists from 35 galleries and offers a varied evening programme that includes concerts.

So, once again, the fair reaches into the city - and the city comes to the fair.

While **Neu Cöln** invigorates the city with fresh energy, our programme of panel discussions looks beyond Cologne and explores new avenues.

Our podcast series "**FAIR ENOUGH**" is hosted by **Micaela Dixon** and produced in collaboration with German contemporary art magazine **TEXTE ZUR KUNST**.

Micaela's conversations with a range of fascinating guests address topical issues in the international art world and are available on all popular podcast platforms. I'd encourage you to give them a listen!

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Something else you won't want to miss is "**Cologne in the 1990s and now**", a live panel discussion taking place in the **Europasaal** between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday.

Host **Hannes Loichinger** will guide a discussion between **Isabelle Graw**, **Diedrich Diederichsen** and **Christian Nagel** about how the local art and art-collecting scene has developed in comparison with the situation in the rest of Europe. **Monika Sprüth** will also be on the panel.

There's one more thing I'd like to say **before I finish**:

yes, the art market is changing.

But ART COLOGNE continues to be a place of stability.

A place where people come together to experience art, buy art, exchange ideas and find inspiration.

And today, that face-to-face contact is more important than ever.

Because art thrives on seeing, feeling and talking.

I would like to thank everyone who has made this fair possible:

galleries, partners, sponsors and our visitors.

And now I'm delighted to hand over to **Anke Schmidt**, Vice Chairwoman of the German Association of Galleries and Art Dealers, the BVDG.

I hope you will all have inspiring encounters, interesting conversations -

and a wonderful time at ART COLOGNE 2025!

Stand: 04.11.2025

Kürzel: wlf