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#artcolognefair

NEW POSITIONS at ART COLOGNE 2026

Minister of State Wolfram Weimer visiting in Cologne

The federal association of German galleries and art dealers (BVDG) has realized the sponsorship program NEW POSITIONS in cooperation with ART COLOGNE since 1980. This year, the program sponsored by the federal government is being especially distinguished by the visit of Minister of State for Culture Wolfram Weimer on November 5th. The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) will speak at the opening of the art fair, and meet several of the artists and gallery owners personally in the context of a tour.

NEW POSITIONS at ART COLOGNE 2026 presents 18 promotional booths with works by seven women and eleven men artists. Painting dominates almost traditionally among the chosen positions. However, nearly half of the participants will present room-related and interdisciplinary works. The themes being dealt with thereby have their finger on the pulse of the times: humorously ironically, poetically, but also documentarily and archeologically dissecting, identity and origin, geopolitical dislocations, societally ascribed gender roles or the new harshness of a society that is losing contact with its moral compass are placed in question.

This year's NEW POSITIONS make use of a broad repertoire of human sensibility and thought for their artistic realization in the media of painting, sculpture, drawing, collage, and installation.

This year, the average age of the participants is 34. The range thereby extends from the youngest artist, aged 24, Pau Aguiló with Galerie Pelaires (Palma), to the oldest artist, aged 45, Patrick Walsh with Nagel Draxler (Cologne/Berlin).

Commitment of galleries to young positions is of the greatest importance

The goal of the sponsorship program is to enable the entry of younger artists creating exceptional work into the art market and to attract the interest of collectors and of museums and institutions. The commitment of the galleries to young, not yet established positions of outstanding artistic quality is of the greatest importance for the careers of artists. Exemplary of the continuous involvement in the context of NEW POSITIONS are, in particular, Eigen + Art (Berlin-Leipzig), Galerie Kleindienst (Leipzig), Christine König Galerie (Vienna), Klemm's (Berlin), Galerie Christian Lethert (Cologne), alexander levy (Berlin), Galerie Nagel Draxler (Cologne/Berlin), Galerie Rupert Pfab (Düsseldorf) and Van Horn (Düsseldorf).

Any gallery with a contemporary program exhibiting at ART COLOGNE can apply for a promotional booth with one of their represented artists. Five jurors select the most convincing positions from the suggestions of the galleries. This year's jury includes Elke Gruhn (curator, 2002-2024 artistic and managing head of Nassauischer



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www.artcologne.com

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Kunstverein Wiesbaden), Clara Meister (curator, director of Sammlung Hoffmann, Berlin), Christoph Tannert (curator, author, 1992-2024 director of Künstlerhaus Bethanien), Brigitte Werneburg (freelance journalist, author, former culture section head, film and art editor of the taz), Frank Michael Zeidler (artist, member of various art committees, incl. Stiftung Kunstfonds, VG Bild-Kunst).

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The evaluations regularly carried out by the BVDG confirm the success of the sponsorship program: more than 80 percent of the sponsored artists are also still working together with their galleries three to five years later. More than 1,000 artists could be promoted since 1980.

Note for editorial offices:

ART COLOGNE photos are available in our image database on the Internet at <https://www.artcologne.com/press/image-database/> in the "Press" section.

Press information is available at: <https://www.artcologne.com/press/press-releases-of-art-cologne/>.

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