

PRESS INFORMATION

EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2024

MELIKE KARA SHALLOW LAKES

FEBRUARY 15 – MAY 12, 2024

PRESS PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024, 11 A.M.

Melike Kara (b. 1985) creates spaces for remembrance. With an examination of her family roots as a point of departure, Kara's installations raise questions regarding identity, migration, and visibility. Taking as a basis her archive of photographs from various private sources, which has been growing continuously since 2014, the artist studies the visual culture of the Kurdish diaspora. Kara has developed an extensive, location-specific work for the Rotunda of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt. In large-format pieces she combines photographic material with paintings that refer to patterns from traditional knotted or woven tapestries. Her artistic process uses bleach, and the associated process of abstraction moreover creates an examination of change and blank spaces within a specific cultural narrative. Sculptural elements recalling pavilions and pools refer to the architecture of the Rotunda, which is accessible to the general public.

SUPPORTED BY SCHIRN ZEITGENOSSEN ADDITIONAL SUPPORT Dr. Hans Feith und Dr. Elisabeth Feith-Stiftung

THE CULTURE HIP HOP AND CONTEMPORARY ART IN THE 21ST CENTURY

FEBRUARY 29 – MAY 26, 2024

PRESS PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024, 11 A.M.

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the birth of Hip Hop, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is dedicating a major interdisciplinary exhibition to Hip Hop's profound influence on the current art and cultural landscape. Hip Hop first emerged in the Bronx, New York in the 1970s as a cultural movement among Black and Latinx youth who expressed themselves through MCing, DJing, graffiti writing, and breakdancing. From its inception, Hip Hop critiqued dominant structures and cultural narratives and offered new avenues for expressing diasporic experiences and creating alternate systems of power, leading to social and political consciousness and knowledge-building. Hip Hop has now evolved into a global phenomenon that has driven numerous innovations in music, fashion, technology, as well as visual and performing arts. Grounded on the origins of Hip Hop in the U.S., yet with a focus on art and music from the last twenty years, the exhibition features over 100 paintings, photographs, sculptures, and videos, as well as fashion and vinyl, by internationally renowned contemporary artists including Lauren Halsey, Julie Mehretu, Tschabalala Self, Arthur Jafa, Khalil Joseph, Virgil Abloh, and Gordon Parks. THE CULTURE illuminates Hip Hop's unprecedented economic, social, and cultural resources and furthermore addresses contemporary issues and debates – from identity, racism, and appropriation to sexuality, feminism, and empowerment.

The exhibition is co-organized by the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Saint Louis Art Museum and is presented in collaboration with Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt.

CO-CURATORS Baltimore Art Museum: Asma Naeem (Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director) and Gamynne Guillotte (former Chief Education Officer). Saint Louis Art Museum: Hannah Klemm

(Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art) and Andréa Purnell (Audience Development Manager) **SCHIRN PROJECT MANAGEMENT** Matthias Ulrich (Curator Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt) **SUPPORTED BY** Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT** Deutsche Börse Group

This exhibition was generously supported by the Ford Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

COSIMA VON BONIN

FEELINGS

MARCH 21 – JUNE 9, 2024

PRESS PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024, 11 A.M.

Cosima von Bonin (b. 1962) creates transformations of the everyday. For her expansive exhibitions she draws on numerous references from popular culture as well as from film, fashion, music, and art. Evoking exhausted cuddly toys, soft fences, rockets, or cartoon figures like Daffy Duck and Bambi—Bonin combines a variety of protagonists to form an ensemble, a community of social connections. Her artistic strategies comprise alienation, appropriation, cooperation, and delegation. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is presenting a unique scenario in which the artist contrasts recent works previously unseen in Germany with familiar pieces. On view are sculptures, installations, performances, and a selection of her characteristic *Lappen*, which are textile canvases stitched from exquisite fabrics in accordance with the artist's instructions. Vacillating between humor and darkness, playfulness and urgency, fantasy and frightening reality, Bonin's constant concerns remain contradiction, relationships, and self-reflection.

CURATOR Katharina Dohm, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **SUPPORTED BY** Friends of the Schirn Kunsthalle e.V.

SELMA SELMAN

FLOWERS OF LIFE

JUNE 20 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

PRESS PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024, 11 A.M.

Selma Selman (b. 1991) advanced confidently and vigorously into the international art world just a few years ago, describing herself as “the world’s most dangerous artist.” Together with her family, she cannibalizes former status symbols like cars by Mercedes-Benz, in order to acquire the few precious metals that are still usable. The spoken performances by this artist with a Romani background are usually loud, for she gives expression to anger and her urge to reverse power relationships. Selman's art describes impressively, and through a variety of media, autobiographical experiences of discrimination, violence, patriarchy, and sexism. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is dedicating a major solo exhibition to the artist, presenting two specially developed new works. With the poetic title *Flowers of Life*, an installation consisting of orange peel grabs refers to her family's means of livelihood, since they collect and sell scrap metal. The video work *Crossing the Blue Bridge* (2024) is based on memories of Selman's mother, who had to cross a bridge in her hometown of Bihać, Bosnia, with her daughter in 1994 during the Bosnian War. Selman takes these experiences as a starting point to situate herself as a feminist-activist artist who today campaigns internationally for her community.

CURATOR Matthias Ulrich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **SUPPORTED BY** Schirn Zeitgenossen **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT** Kummer-Vanotti-Stiftung

CASABLANCA ART SCHOOL
A POSTCOLONIAL AVANT-GARDE 1962–1987

JULY 12 – OCTOBER 13, 2024

PRESS PREVIEW: THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024, 11 A.M.

Just a few years after Morocco gained independence in 1956, a vibrant center of cultural renewal developed in Casablanca. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is presenting the unique and influential work of the Casablanca Art School in a first major exhibition, one that is long overdue. The main representatives of this innovative school—Farid Belkahlia (1934–2014), Mohammed Chabâa (1935–2013), Bert Flint (1931–2022), Toni Maraini (1941) and Mohamed Melehi (1936–2020), together with students, teachers, and associated artists—soon became a central driver of the development of a postcolonial modern art in the region. Their aims combined an openness toward local history with the new social reality. They included a reassessment of the relationship between art, handicrafts, design, and architecture within the local context in dialogue with the ideas of the Bauhaus manifesto. This was achieved by combining artistic influences from Western metropolises with elements of the vernacular legacy which had been undermined during the colonial era. The Schirn will be presenting some 100 works, including large-format, colorful, abstract (mural) paintings, graphic experiments, and everyday objects, as well as comprehensive documentary material, revealing a specifically Moroccan art scene with transnational aspirations.

An exhibition organized by Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Tate St Ives, and Sharjah Art Foundation.

CURATORS Morad Montazami and Madeleine de Colnet (for Zamân Books & Curating) in cooperation with Esther Schlicht and Luise Leyer (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt) **ASSOCIATE RESEARCHERS** Fatima-Zahra Lakrissa and Maud Houssais

CAROL RAMA

OCTOBER 11, 2024 – JANUARY 19, 2025

PRESS PREVIEW: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024, 11 A.M.

Sexuality, passion, disease, death—Carol Rama (1918–2015) dedicated her art to the great human themes and elemental experiences. She is one of the outstanding artists of the modern age who achieved fame late in life. During the 1940s, Rama paved the way for the feminist art of today with her representations of female desire. She remained independent of schools and artistic groupings and created an unconventional and yet highly personal body of work over the course of about sixty years. Rama's creative activity defies simple categorization and is distinguished by an enthusiastic delight in experimentation. The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is presenting the first comprehensive survey exhibition in Germany of the Turin-based Italian artist, showing works from all phases of her remarkable oeuvre. On view are hauntingly expressive portraits, object montages in surrealist tradition, and abstract paintings and works made using industrial materials.

CURATOR Dr. Martina Weinhart, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **SUPPORTED BY** Dr. Marschner Stiftung and Friends of the Schirn Kunsthalle e.V.

HANS HAACKE

NOVEMBER 8, 2024 – FEBRUARY 9, 2025

PRESS PREVIEW: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024, 11 A.M.

Hans Haacke (b. 1936) has shaped “political art” to a greater extent than any other artist of his generation. Keen criticism of institutions, political awareness, and an uncompromising defense of democratic principles to the point of activism all characterize his approach. His work is marked by directness and theoretical clarity, and yet it is poetic, metaphorical, ecological, and in many respects highly topical at the same time. More than once his controversial artistic contributions to contemporary discourse have been excluded from exhibitions. In a wide-ranging retrospective, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt will be examining Haacke’s influential oeuvre from 1959 to the present day. He has pursued a variety of artistic strategies, working from an early stage in the fields of ecology and science and taking up the approaches of, for example, the group ZERO and minimal art, as well as conceptual art, art in public space, and poster art. The exhibition at the Schirn, with some 70 paintings, objects, photographs, and installations, demonstrates how Haacke became one of the most important political artists on the international art stage.

An exhibition organized by Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in cooperation with Belvedere, Vienna.

CURATOR Dr. Ingrid Pfeiffer, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **SUPPORTED BY** Kulturstiftung des Bundes **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT** fiber to the people GmbH

DOUBLE FEATURE

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 PM

In the event series DOUBLE FEATURE, national and international filmmakers have been introducing their own productions, followed by a film of their choice, for over ten years now. On the last Wednesday of each month, the invited artists offer insights into their work and their interest in film. DOUBLE FEATURE was initiated in 2012 by the Schirn curator Matthias Ulrich, and it has been providing an ongoing platform for a variety of trends and forms of expression ever since. Since 2017 the program has been devised and accompanied by a changing group of curators. To date, the Schirn has shown works by over 130 artists. The artists invited for 2024 include Melanie Jame Wolf, Rhea Storr, and Elisa Giardina Papa.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

LOCATION SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, Römerberg, 60311 Frankfurt am Main
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SCHIRN MAGAZINE [schirn.de/en/magazin](https://www.schirn.de/en/magazin)

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