

PRESS RELEASE



GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE
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I AM

Figure and Abstraction—a Dialogue

Art from the Open Studio St. Hedwig

LINDA SORAVIA, KERSTIN HÖLZNER,

KRISTIN JUNIOR, ELKE LACHERT, GERO SCHÜCKER

Vernissage: Thursday, 28.07.2016, 6 pm
Exhibition: 29.07. – 31.08.2016
Opening Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 12–6 pm
Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany

Greetings: **Alexander Grafe**
Regional CEO Alexianer St. Hedwig Kliniken Berlin GmbH
Dr. Christian Hanke
District Mayor and City Council for Health Berlin Mitte
Prof. Dr. med. Felix Bempohl
Chief Physician Psychiatrische Universitätsklinik der Charité im St. Hedwig-Krankenhaus

Introduction: **Paula Schmidt-Dudek**
Artistic Director Open Studio St. Hedwig

Music: **Friederike Merz** – Jazz Singer
Johannes von Ballestrem – Guitar
Live Music Now Berlin

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is showing new works from the Open Studio St. Hedwig by **Linda Soravia, Kerstin Hölzner, Kristin Junior, Elke Lachert** and **Gero Schücker**.

In their paintings the artists from the Open Studio are analyzing human existence. In this exhibition figurative and abstract works are presented together in a dynamic relation. Central to the show are the pieces by Italian born artist **Linda Soravia**. For many years she examined the human form intensively in her artistic practice. Her figures are metaphors for life in all of its facets. The strongly applied contours give a unique pictorial strength to the bodies. The figures, which are mostly nudes, appear muscular and vulnerable at the same time and shimmer between male and female attributes. Her „dancers“, which are flying through the air dramatically are reminiscent of Egon Schiele. Another work depicts a shape, lying on the ground – yet it remains unclear whether this figure is contracted with pain or if it is rolled up for a cosy sleep. Art is an existential necessity for Linda Soravia.

The figurative images are set against works by different artists from the Open Studio, who are examining existence in varying forms. Elke Lacherts' pictures show her great will to experiment. She uses a variety of materials on her canvases, she invents new primers and uses pastes, plaster and threads. In a work series she layers dense nets of fine black lines like a veil over her painting almost as if she was trying to allow a view but prevent direct contact.

Trägerverein:
PS-Art e.V. Berlin
Oranienburger Straße 27
10117 Berlin-Mitte

Vorstand:
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Ralph Stabbert
Wolfram Voigtländer

Spendenkonto:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE42100205000001082600
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

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Galerie ART CRU Berlin is Berlin's only gallery for so-called Outsider Art since 2008. The term (introduced in 1945 by painter Jean Dubuffet as "Art Brut") refers to art by people with psychiatric disorders or mental disabilities. We are convinced that the particular perceptions these artists have allow them to create art of high authenticity. With our exhibitions we present works by "outsiders" as a crucial part of contemporary art and aim to foster discourse within the established art world. Being located at the Kunsthof on Oranienburger Straße, the gallery presents works by people with disabilities right in the centre of Berlin's art scene. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is backed by the non-profit federation PS-Art e.V. Berlin – a network of different institutions.

For its five-year jubilee the gallery published a chronicle comprising all exhibition catalogues from 2008-13. In 2014 we took part at the *Outsider Art Fair* in *Paris*, the world's leading fair in this field. The same year saw the nomination of five artists from the network of PS-Art e.V. Berlin for the international art prize *Euward*.

For further information and images please contact us:

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For printable image material please contact: galerie@art-cru.de



Linda Soravia, Skizze, 2016,
ballpoint pen on paper, 70x50



Linda Soravia, Nudo 13, 2016,
coloured pencil, ballpoint pen on paper, 70x50



Elke Lachert, In Ordnung bringen, 2016,
mixed media on canvas, 70x50



Elke Lachert, Gitterwerk 2, 2016
ink, paper, 58x40

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