

PRESS RELEASE

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



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JOSEF HOFER

Vernissage: Thursday, 26.04.2012, 7 pm
Exhibition: April 27 – July 7 2012
Galerie ART CRU Berlin

Introduction : Dr. phil. Elisabeth Telsnig
art historian, Lebenshilfe Oberösterreich

The artist is present.

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is pleased to announce renowned Art Brut artist Josef Hofer's first solo show in Germany.

“Josef Hofer never spoke, but he loved to draw since he was a little child”

Today Josef Hofer is still drawing and, being 66 years old, is one of the most important and most respected Art Brut artists alive. He is represented in the most prestigious Art Brut collections, his work is equally admired by artists, art historians and collectors. The meteoric ascend of his fame made him one of *the* artists standing for Art Brut today – and its ideal of pure creativity. The intense impression of his works, that almost no art lover can pull himself away from, makes him an archetype representing the unique qualities of this form of art.

Elisabeth Telsnig, art historian and director of a paint- and drawing group of the Austrian Lebenshilfe in Ried, discovered the quality of Hofers drawings in 1998, describing them as being “different to anything” she ever saw. Initially Hofer was concentrating on representational motives from every day farming life, but the purchase of a mirror about 10 years ago was destined to change both Hofer's work and his career forever. He was now able to look at himself without distraction and aimed his artistic interest through the mirror onto himself, his intimacy, his body or his new “YOU”. “Hofer depicts the most natural thing in the world, nevertheless he is breaking a taboo which is still active – the realistic representation of male sexuality. He is literally living the “Freedom of Art”, free of any social and cultural pressure, free of any convention.” (E. Telsnig)

Despite the change of topics Hofer always sticks to his dominant black lines that he uses to draw like grids or frames around his central motifs and that he fills in a recurring style with coloured pencils in orange and yellow, sometimes in blue. These characteristic colourful framings

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

Vorstand:
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Silvana Künze
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Spendenkonto:
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have both been interpreted as encapsulations the figures they try to break free from or as protective shelters that have be drawn by Hofer for his figures - or for himself.

Josef Hofers works haven been included to the *Collection de l'Art Brut* in Lausanne in 2003 and were presented there in a solo exhibition. In 2004 the artist won the first price in the EUWARD competition in Munich. Between 2005-2008 Hofer's art was on display in Schärding am Inn, Madrid, Brüssel, Zurich, Liège, Vienna, Japan and other places. Recent shows in **2011** included New York (*Calvin-Morris Gallery*), London (*Museum of Everything*), Paris (*Galerie Christian Berst*), Schärding am Inn, (*Galerie am Stein*) and Zurich (*Galerie Latal*). In March **2012** Hofer was the first living Art Brut artist to be invited for a second time to have a solo show in the *Collection de l'Art Brut* in Lausanne.

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 diseases or mental disabilities. The gallery's main focus is to reduce the distance between established art and Outsider Art. Furthermore it aims at interconnecting the artists and their scenes. Being located at the Kunsthof in Oranienburger Straße, the gallery doesn't just present works by people with disabilities right in the centre of the art scene, it also increases their public visibility. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is carried by the non-profit federation PS-Art e.V. Berlin (network of different institutions) lead by Alexandra Gersdorff-Bultmann and her son Nikolaj Bultmann.

For further information and images please contact:

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Opening hours: Tuesday till Saturday / 12 – 6 pm

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