

PRESS RELEASE

GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE
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HARALD SCHULZ BRENNEN MUSST DU, WENN DU ATMEN WILLST

Duration: 01.11.2023–11.01.2024
Vernissage: Tu 09.11.2023, 7-9 pm
Greetings: Maren Rabe, Curatorial Team, Galerie ART CRU Berlin
Introduction: Petra Schröck, Director Brotfabrik Galerie
Reading: Th 23.11.2023, 7-8 pm, Poetry, Harald Schulz reads his own texts
Opening hours: Tu & Th noon-6 pm, We 2-6 pm and by appointment
Venue: Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is presenting oil paintings by **Harald Schulz** (*1959, Guben), who in 1989 was the only student in the GDR to receive a diploma in abstract painting at the Kunsthochschule Weißensee. His paintings are stirring color experiences, applied with brush, spatula and his own hands.

The **vernissage** will take place on **Thu. 09.11.2023** from 7-9 pm in the gallery and will be complemented by a **reading** on **Thu. 23.11.2023** from 7-8 pm. Here the artist will read his own poetic texts.

Petra Schröck, (art historian, author, curator) on Harald Schulz:

Harald Schulz's paintings were created, as was the case with some masters of art history, in a kind of shadowy existence away from fashions and developments and almost apart from the business of the art world. It often seems as if Schulz descended on the surfaces of his canvases in a swoop to work on them with his hands and bring them to completion in a Dionysian and concentrated painting process in a physical act heightened to the point of ecstasy - and to the point of complete exhaustion. The explosive but extremely fragile formations of the painting's surface and the massive, thick application of oil paint (impasto) suggest the profound experiences of the pain and beauty of transience. Each application of paint and each line seem to fight for survival in their gestures. They are an expression of his creative process, the promptings of the unconscious and the exposure of the existential struggle that each canvas represents for the painter.

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

Vorstand:
Dr. Ivan Nenchev, Norbert Prochnow
Maren Rabe, Andrea Siebert
Renate Lühr

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Not all paintings are exclusively abstract, in some - especially in the earlier work - figurative hints of form and also concrete forms can be found, which refer primarily to the realm of landscape and in part to the personal. The vividness and density of the color surfaces as well as the ductus reflect moods and emotional turbulences that are transmitted to the viewer: threatened, aggressive, sensual, pulverized, harmonious, unbridled, challenging, frenzied, outraged. Harald Schulz's turn to abstraction developed during his studies at the Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weißensee, and in retrospect it seems serendipitous that Dieter Goltzsche and Heinrich Tessmer (1943-2012) were his teachers. It was Tessmer who recognized his original talent as a painter and encouraged him without reservation to take his diploma in abstract painting, contrary to the academic ideas of the GDR cultural functionaries. This was and remained a historical isolated case in 1989. Schulz collided with established Socialist Realism at the moment when it became obsolete and unfashionable overnight. And yet, after the fall of the Wall, like so many others, he found it difficult to cope with the imperative of "inner necessity" and the unrestricted freedom of styles and visual languages - he, who had presented a widely acclaimed thesis in which various forms of art and sounds (whale songs) merged, remained largely unnoticed except for a few exhibition participations after the period of upheaval.

Schulz found inspiration both in the works of Willem de Kooning and unmistakably in the work of Vincent van Gogh. He has deeply admired and studied the latter since his student days and feels a kinship with him through regular reading of his diaries and letters. Like him, Schulz suffers from his self-imposed isolation and psychological problems; like him, he is an outsider who actually wants to be with people but can't and suffers from a lack of recognition. Harald Schulz is a quiet, introverted person - and this contrasts with his vigorous painting and his consuming devotion to painting. Why his oeuvre has been so neglected by the art establishment up to now is surely also related to his personal circumstances, to his persistent depression and his intermittent misanthropy. His paintings radiate their own poetics and seductive power of the painterly; they are never calculated aesthetic maneuvers and are always a feast for the eye. In the context of European abstract expressionism, his voice is an elemental one that finally deserves art historical discovery and appreciation.

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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. The gallery team is convinced that the particular perceptions these artists have allow them to create art of high authenticity. The exhibitions present works by "outsiders" as an important position in contemporary art. The aim is to stimulate an active discourse with the established art world. Located in the Kunsthof on Oranienburger Straße, the gallery positions works by outsider artists in the middle of the Berlin art scene.

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is backed by the association PS-Art e.V. Berlin, a network of various psychosocial institutions. In 2022, the gallery was awarded the Ulrike-Fritze-Lindenthal Prize for its inclusive work, the destigmatization award of the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics (DGPPN).

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Contact:

Galerie ART CRU Berlin
Oranienburger Str. 27, Im Kunsthof, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Maren Rabe und Ivan Nenchev (curatorial team)
Matthias Hofmann (press)

Phone: + 49 / (0)30 24 35 73 14

Mail: galerie@art-cru.de

Web: www.art-cru.de

Instagram: [@artcruberlin](https://www.instagram.com/artcruberlin)

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-6 pm, Wednesdays 2-6 pm and by appointment



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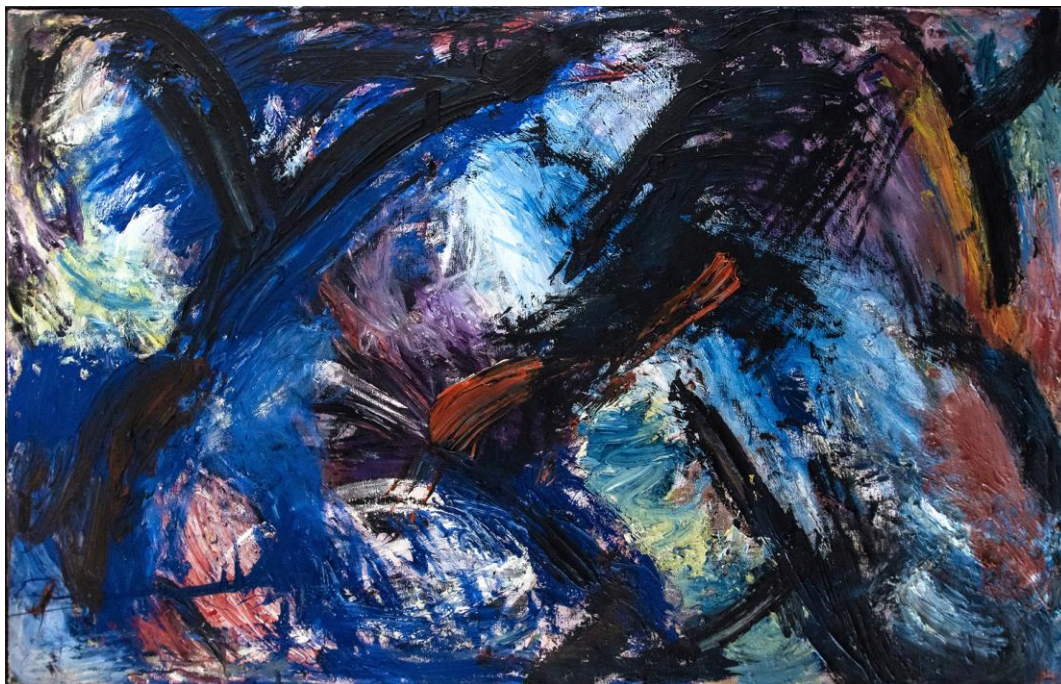
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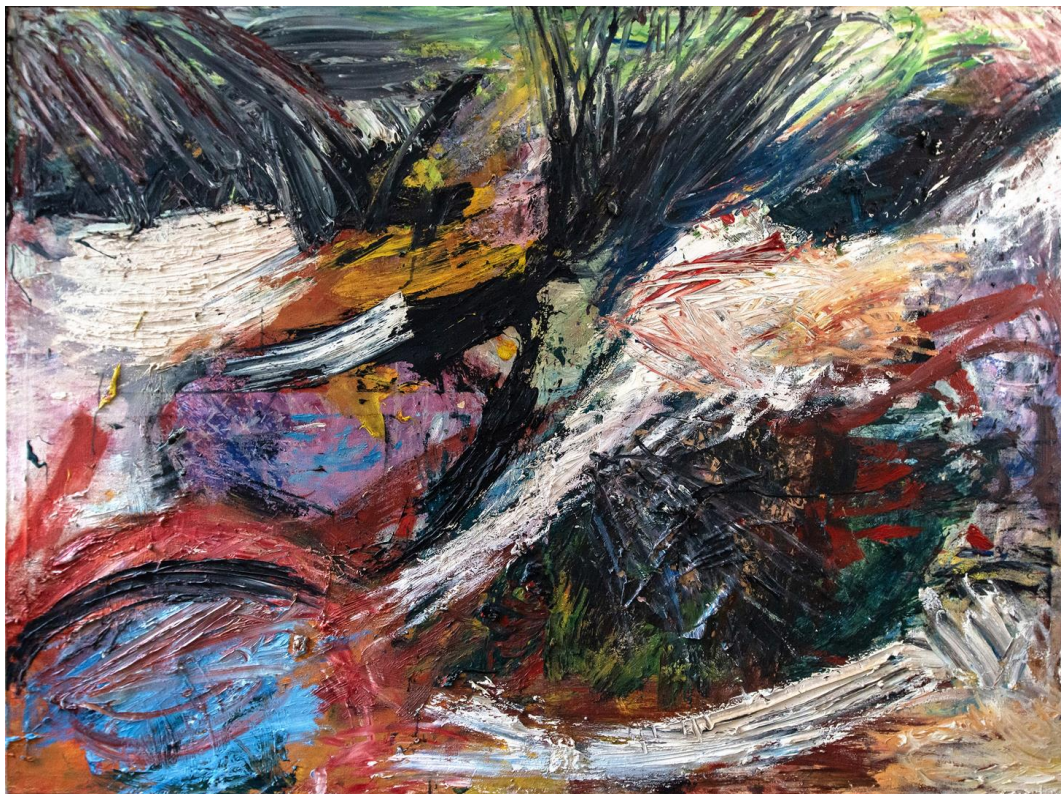
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Harald Schulz, So blau wie Schnee, 1998, oil on canvas, 126x197



Harald Schulz, Mistral, 1998, oil on canvas, 137x185

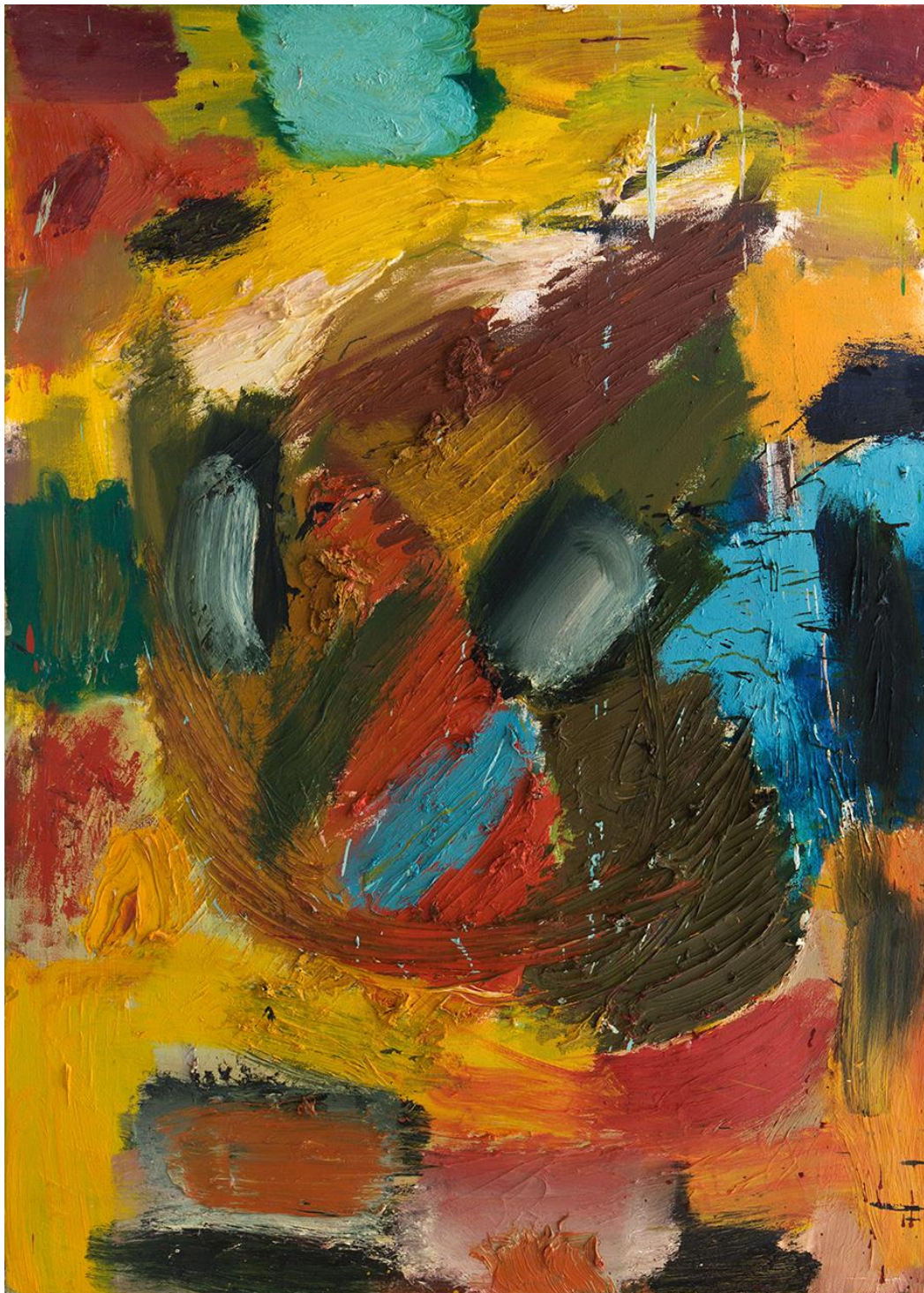
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Harald Schulz, Freude, 2001, oil on canvas, 101x144

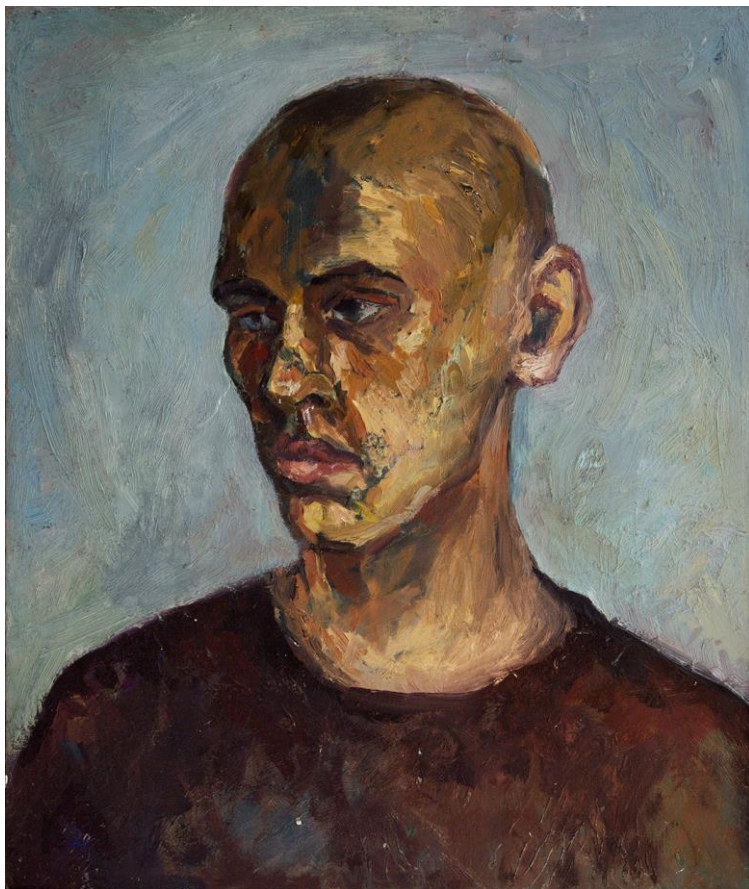
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Harald Schulz, Portraitstudie, 1989, oil on canvas, 52x45



Harald Schulz, Georgische Landschaft, 1986, oil on canvas, 27x36,5

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