

PRESS RELEASE



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

Vernissage: Thursday, 09.09.2021, 6 pm
Exhibition: 09.09.– 29.10.2021
Opening Hours: Tue & Thu 12–6 pm, Wed 2–6 pm
Location: Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany
Host: Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Leitung Galerie ART CRU Berlin
Introduction: Dr. Annelie Lütgens
Head of Graphic Collection - Berlinische Galerie
Lyrical entry: Karin Pott
Poem by Helga Sophia Goetze
Music: Moritz Ebert (Violoncello)
Live Music Now - Yehudi Menuhin Berlin e.V.

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is enthralled to announce its hosting of an exhibition featuring the works of late artist **Helga Sophia Goetze** (born in 1922, Magdeburg — died in 2008, in Winsen).

Beginning in the early eighties, Goetze avidly built a large repertoire of works that includes paintings, embroidered carpets and numerous writings. Goetze gained notoriety after standing for an hour every day for 20 years for her “vigil” (Mahnwache), and claiming that “Fucking makes you peaceful”, or, “Fucking is Peace”. An opportunity to work under renowned eclectic artist Otto Muehl at his Friedrichshof commune in Austria encouraged her to take up painting; whereafter, from 1978 to the mid 1980’s, she birthed about 500-1000 works using oil pastels on paper and also gouache, as done in her “self-representations” series. Goetze explored and experimented with several different themes, such as: war, peace, religion, esotericism, psychology, politics, sex, and family she initially brought to the world in painted pictures, later as embroideries.

Goetze significantly contributed to art history working with various different disciplines. “Peace Flag”, her first embroidery work making use of an old bed cover, is where she thought it essential and more authentic to use needle and thread to capture the peace movement at the time, as well as children, nature, and herself sitting at the Berlin Memorial Church, holding vigil. She continued working with embroidery, creating pieces such as “13 Göttinnen” (13 Goddesses, 1993/94, 180x175cm), or “12 Pfade zum direkten Wissen” (12 Paths to Direct Knowledge, 12-part Leporello, 1990, 27x185cm), a couple amidst 300 embroidery works spanning almost three decades, from 1983 to her death in 2008. Five major large-format hand-embroidered carpets by her have resided in the permanent exhibition of the Collection de l’Art Brut since 2007 - while The Stadtmuseum Berlin looks after the rest of her legacy of painted and embroidered works. The free spirited artist was born and raised with a middle class background in Magdeburg in 1922. She married young, at 20, to a man 12 years older than her. They had 7 children together, after moving residence from Magdeburg to Hamburg, where her husband

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PS art e.V. Berlin
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10117 Berlin-Mitte

Vorstand:
Maren Rabe, Elisa Canducci
Dannica Litzen
Benedikt Ey

Spendenkonto:
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worked as a banker. After consensually spending a night with Giovanni, a mutual vacation acquaintance, on a trip to Sicily, she decided to abandon her role as a bourgeois housewife, and moved into a house project where sexuality was free and the property was communal. In 1973, she wrote a book entitled "Hausfrau der Nation oder Deutschlands Supersau? Zeugnisse eines Ausbruchs" (Housewife of the Nation or Germany's Super Pig? Testimonies of an Outburst), ed. Volker Elis Pilgrim.

Throughout her career, Goetze received international attention due to her provocative art practise. She was dubbed "scandal of the year" when she stripped naked on television in 1976. "What do I have to be ashamed of? My body is my church, through it I feel and breathe."

Goetze moved to Berlin in 1978, Berlin-Kreuzberg to be exact. There she stood at the entrance of the TU Mensa, handing out small fliers with her messages to people, and also had them hanging around her neck in the form of handmade signs. She then went on to play the leading role in a film entitled "Rote Liebe" (Red Love), by Rosa von Praunheim. From 1983 until shortly before her death on January 29, 2008, she maintained her place at the Memorial Church, from which she would shout at bystanders: " Fucking/love - the orgasm of the goddess is peace", "Who perceives the sexual distress of young men and women over 30?". She lived in Charlottenburg from 1982 until her death.

Helga Goetze wrote about 3,000 poems. She described herself as the "greatest living poet." The poems, as well as the over 30,000 typewritten DIN A 4 pages with daily records of her experiences, her reading, her insights, are an invaluable moral portrait of our time. This literary legacy is housed in the Frauenfeministisches Archiv, FFBI, Berlin.

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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**. Since 2015 the gallery is a member of the **lvbg**, the Galleries Association of Berlin (Landesverband Berliner Galerien).

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For further information and images please contact us:

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



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Yoga, undated, cotton twist, metal threads, nettle, 47x39,7, picture credit: Karin Pott / Galerie ART CRU Berlin



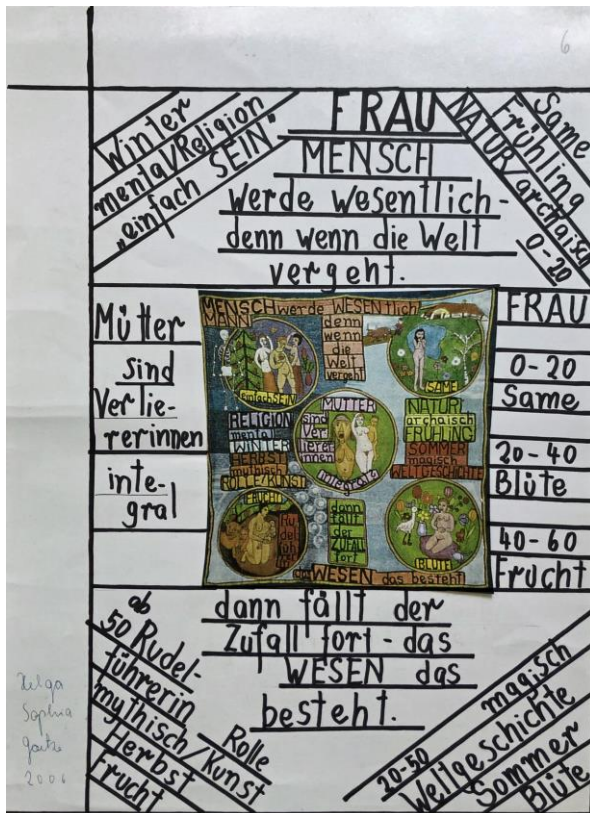
Die Liebenden, undated, gouache, 21x30, picture credit: Karin Pott / Galerie ART CRU Berlin

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Mensch werde wesentlich, 2006, mixed media and collage on paper, 42x29.5, picture credit: Karin Pott / Galerie ART CRU Berlin



Sophia schöne stille Schwester, 1969, gouache, 63x54, picture credit: Karin Pott / Galerie ART CRU Berlin

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