

PRESS RELEASE

GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE
0049 (0)30 / 24 35 73 14 · GALERIE@ART-CRU.DE · WWW.ART-CRU.DE



MARIA-MAIKE LEFFERS SPUR UND LINIE

Duration: 20.03.–16.05.2025
Vernissage: Th 20.03.2025, 6 pm,
the artist will be present
Greetings: Ivan Nenchev, 1st board member PS-Art e.V. Berlin and curator
Marie Jeschke, Director of Galerie ART CRU Berlin
Alexander Grafe, Regional Managing Director,
Alexianer St. Hedwig Kliniken Berlin GmbH
Petra Rossmann, Head of Therapeutic Services
Psychiatric University Clinic of the Charité at St. Hedwig Hospital
Opening hours: Tu & Th noon-6 pm, We & Fr 2-6 pm and by appointment
Venue: Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of artist **Maria-Maike Leffers**. In her multi-layered works, she combines collage, painting, and drawing to create a fascinating unity. Her use of fabric and threads are particularly influential, often found from the St. Hedwig open studio, a project of the Psychiatric University Clinic of the Charité at St. Hedwig Hospital, where she works. Her works on paper tell of transformation, recollection, and the aesthetics of chance.

Powerful, defining lines emerge from scraps and paper remnants. Inconspicuous scraps from the studio's trashcan or textile materials, accompanied by traces of glue, are transformed into meaningful elements of her art; they are given a new purpose and become part of a whole. Maria-Maike Leffers collects what surrounds her. She discovers, preserves, combines, composes, and collages. The self-taught artist creates works where the supposedly familiar can be experienced from a completely new perspective.

For her, everyday finds - whether from the studio or the street, from newspaper clippings to twine - are a "found food" that she serves up to visitors for this exhibition. With the smudges of brushes, previously dipped in a variety of colors, she expands, overlays and deepens the layers of meaning in her works. Anyone who engages with this can experience her artistic cosmos as part of a new reality: woven from traces and lines.

Maria-Maike Leffers (born 1946) grew up in the Netherlands in an art-oriented environment: Her father was a watercolorist and her mother was passionate about interior design - a creative atmosphere that shaped her from an early age. During her ten-year stay in Sydney, she discovered her passion for artistic experimentation. Alongside her studies in cultural studies and her teaching career, she began to work self-taught with materials she found in urban spaces. This sensitivity to found objects and everyday materials still characterizes her work today.

At the age of 40, she moved to Berlin and intensified her artistic practice. At the St. Hedwig Open Studio, she found an environment that inspired her creative work to take off. The studio, offers her space for collecting materials, artistic experiments, and interaction. She also keeps a wide variety of found objects in her home, both from her immediate surroundings and from her travels, to rearrange and transform them into her unique works of art.

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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The exhibition *Spur und Linie* features 25 works on paper: a selection from the past ten years. Mainly collages, supplemented by three self-portraits in colored ink, provide an insight into her artistic work. The works reflect her love of experimentation and delicate handling of materials. Maria-Maike Leffers will be present at the opening of the exhibition.

The exhibition is curated by Marie Jeschke and Ivan Nenchev.

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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

Marie Jeschke (gallery director)
Maren Rabe und Ivan Nenchev (curators)
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 and Fridays, 2-6 pm and by appointment



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



Eine Spur von, 2022, mixed media on paper, 27x21 cm

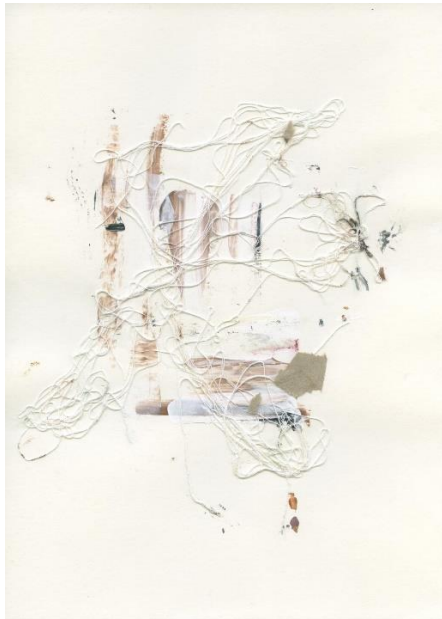
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Faden 1, 2020 mixed media on paper, 33x25 cm (below: detail)

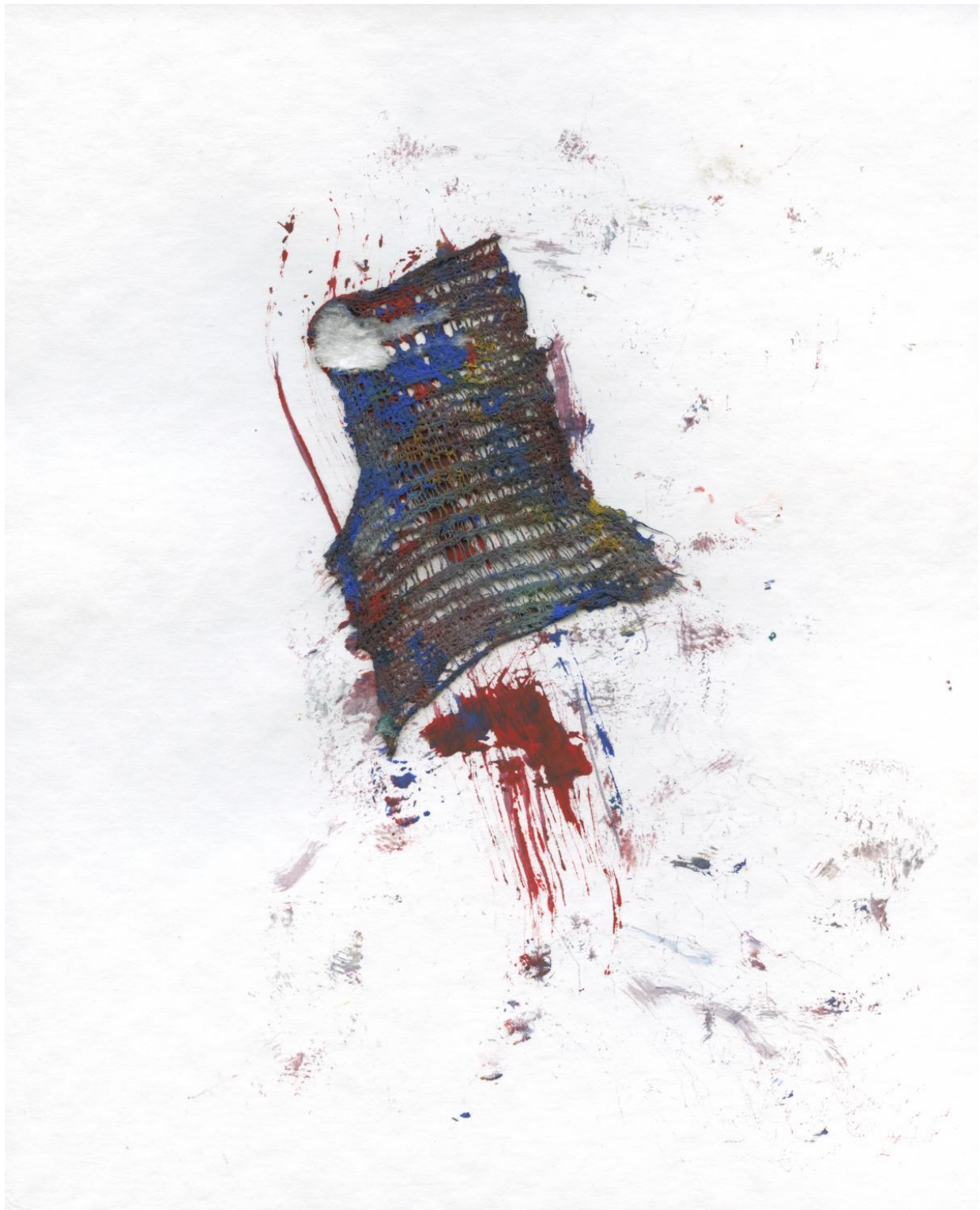
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Ins Netz 1, 2018, mixed media on paper, 256x21 cm

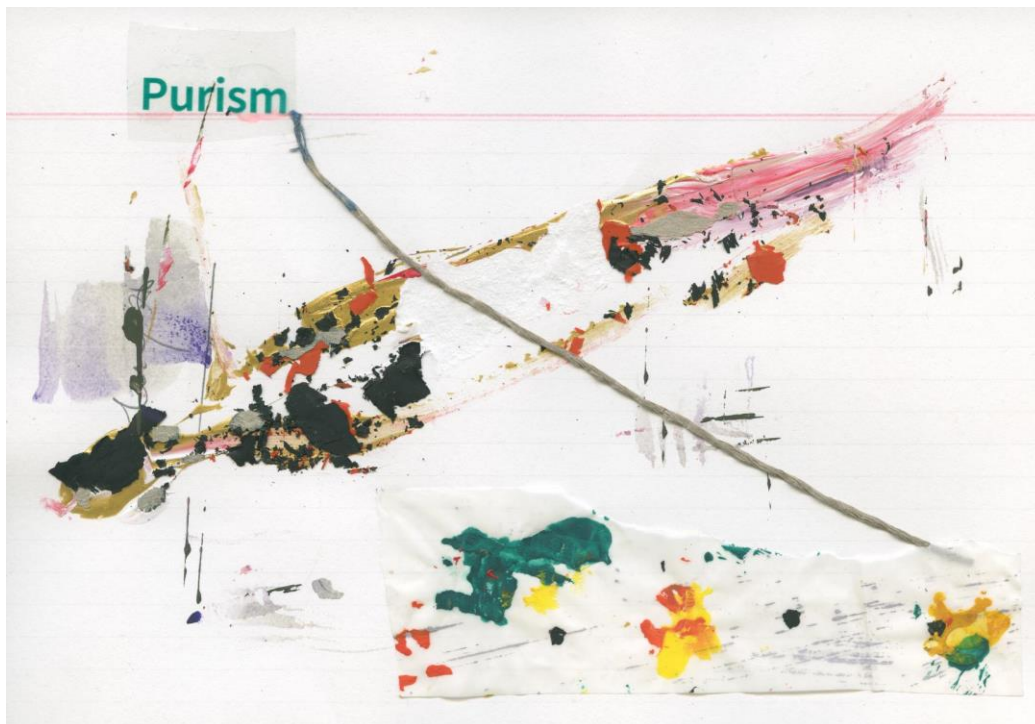
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Purism, 2019, mixed media on paper, 15x21 cm



Welt, 2022, mixed media on paper, 21x30 cm

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Ins Netz 3, 2018, mixed media on paper, 21x12 cm

All pictures © Maria-Maike Leffers, Offenes Atelier St. Hedwig, Galerie ART CRU Berlin

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