

# 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



## OLGA MEZENCEVA ANDERE IM SPIEGEL

**Duration:** 01.08.–19.10.2023  
**Finissage:** Tu 17.10.2023, 5-8 pm  
**Opening hours:** Tu & Th noon-6 pm, We 2-6 pm and by appointment  
Berlin Art Week Fr 15.09. & Sa 16.09. & Su 17.09.2023, 2-6 pm  
**Venue:** Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte

**Galerie ART CRU Berlin** is presenting paintings by euward-nominated artist **Olga Mezenceva** (\*1984, Moscow), which explore the boundaries between abstraction and imagery and challenge the perspective of the viewer. The exhibition's finissage will take place as part of **Woche der Seelischen Gesundheit** (Mental Health Week) on 17.10.23, from 5-8 pm. During **Berlin Art Week** the gallery will be offering extended opening hours (15.09.-17.09.23, 2-6 pm).

At first glance, it appears that her works are abstract compositions of forms, mostly created from sketch-like rectangles, trapezoids, and parallelograms, occasionally complemented by a few circles and curved shapes. However, upon closer inspection, potential connections begin to emerge. The individual forms create bodies that simultaneously appear flat and expansive. Rectangles are transformed by our eyes into elongated bodies with limbs, luminous color fields are turning into garments, potential outdoor spaces into structures reminiscent of spines.

Olga Mezenceva works on her sheets from all sides, creating an impressive, multidimensional representation that invites viewers to experience her artworks from different angles. The artist sets an initial viewing direction by signing her painting with her name, sometimes quite small in the corner, sometimes surprisingly large, almost centered - but always legible and unmissable. In many of the paintings, her figures are upside down due to the direction given by Mezenceva, which makes it even more difficult for the viewer to identify them as such. If one were to hang the paintings "upside down", or view them mirrored, some of the hidden forms would become evident. Therefore, mirrors are installed under some of the works in the exhibition. The mirrors allow the viewers to leave their "normal" point of view and help to recognize the seemingly "abstract" in Mezenceva's works as people or figures.

Since 2004, Olga Mezenceva has worked at the Kaspar Hauser Stiftung, where people with assistance needs are supported. Although she can hardly communicate

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

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

**Spendenkonto:**  
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft  
IBAN: DE42100205000001082600  
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

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linguistically, she finds a way of expression in art that allows her to share her unique perspective on the world with others. Her paintings can be seen at exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout Germany and have been nominated for awards many times.

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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:

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Web: [www.art-cru.de](http://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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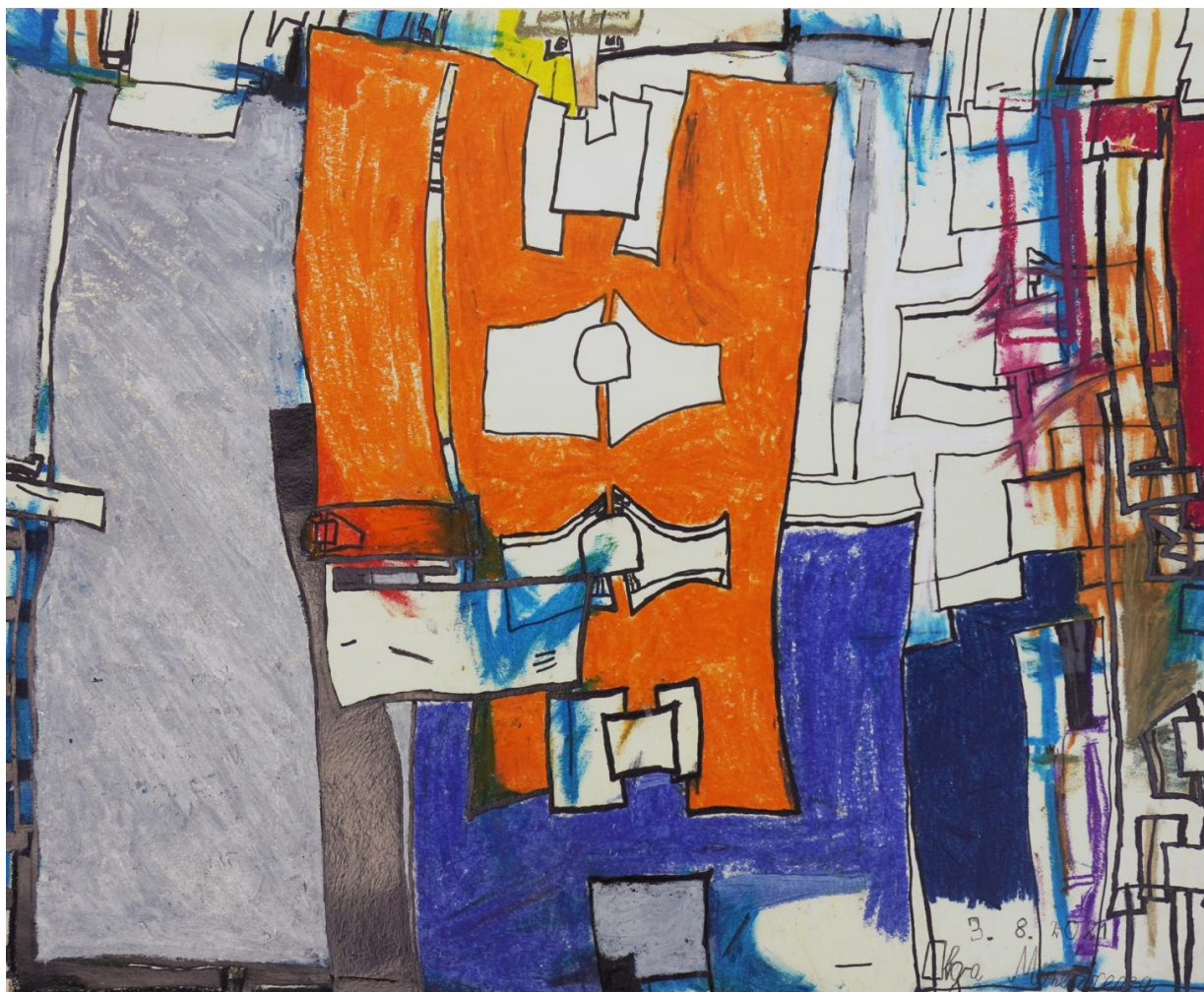
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For printable image material please contact: [galerie@art-cru.de](mailto:galerie@art-cru.de)



Olga Mezenceva, untitled, oil pastel, fineliner, colored pencil, marker on paper, 50x65

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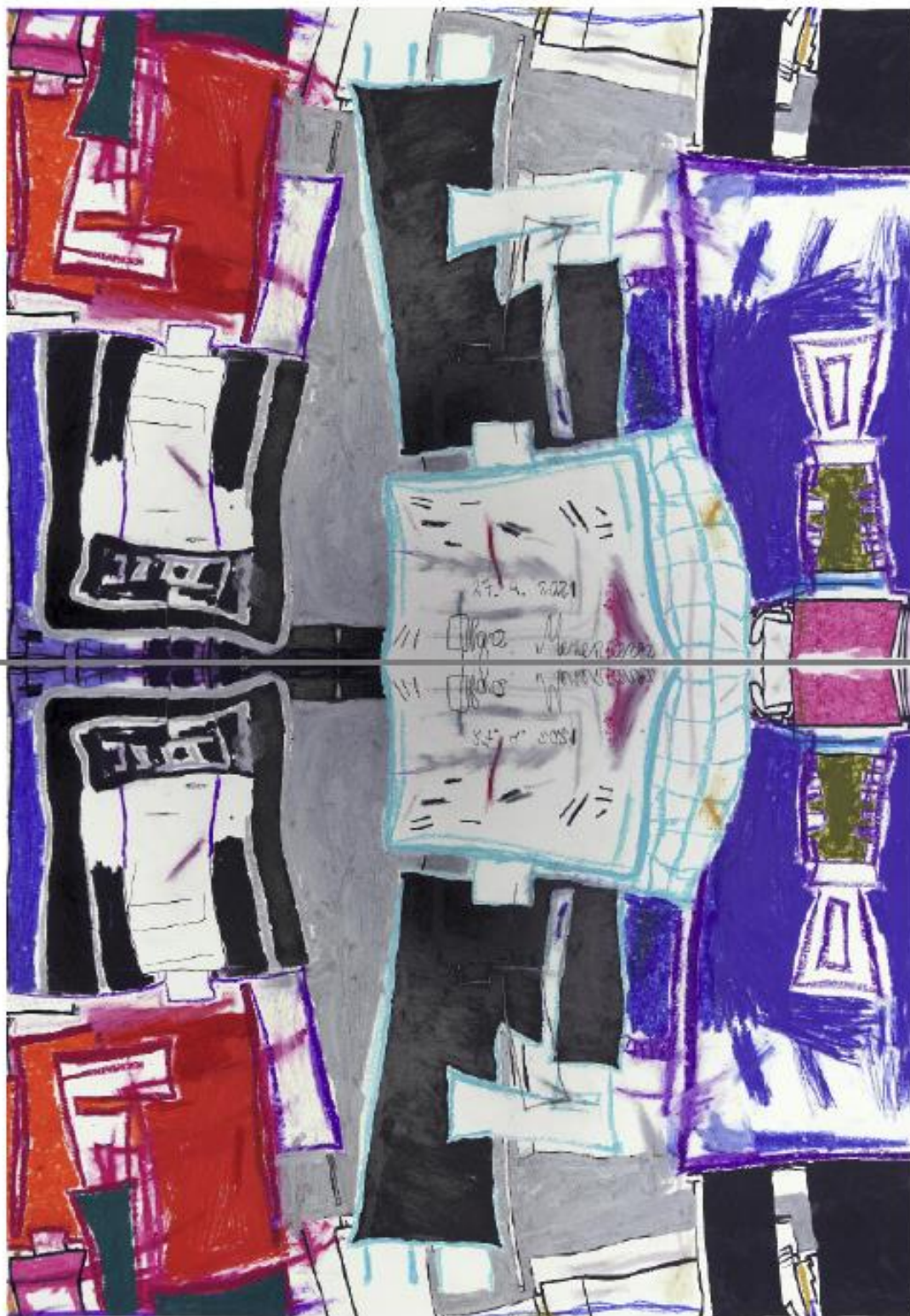
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Olga Mezenceva, untitled, 2021, oil pastel, fineliner, colored pencil, marker on paper, 43x61 (*mirrored*)

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