

# PRESS RELEASE



GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE  
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## HANS KRÜSI – FROM ORPHAN TO GENIUS

**Vernissage:** Friday, 05.04.2019, 7 pm  
**Exhibition:** 06.04. – 11.05.2019  
**Opening Hours:** Tue–Saturday, 12–6 pm  
**Location:** Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany  
**Introduction:** Markus Landert  
Director Kunstmuseum Thurgau / Ittinger Museum

**Galerie ART CRU Berlin** and **Kunstmuseum Thurgau** are exhibiting around 30 works by **Hans Krüsi** (1920-1995). They have been selected to provide a comprehensive overview of his rich output, revolving around the topic of self-discovery and self-representation. In addition to non-salable main works, several selected pieces will be put on public display for the first time.

Hans Krüsi grew up as an orphan in the canton of Appenzell, always on the margins of society. As a young man, the autodidact wanted to be a gardener and for years sold self-bound bouquets on Zurich's Bahnhofstraße before expanding his "product range" with his first works of art such as postcards, photographs and small-format drawings. The compositions – initially created on napkins, cardboard and wrapping paper – depict landscapes, animals and humans, often arranged in silhouette-like symmetry or serial repetition. First artists, then gallery owners, and finally the press became aware of the eccentric outsider artist, who suddenly found himself in the spotlight. The experimental artist was soon able to make a living from his multimedia works. He created handheld cinemas, photographed his surroundings with a Polaroid camera and reproduced his images using a photocopier, only to paint over them again. Within photography, the artist was especially interested in flaws and imperfections: photos were often over- or underexposed, blurred, distorted or cut off. He continued to modify them, carving or cutting them. His motifs were deeply influenced by the Appenzell Alpine landscape. He drew or painted ghost-like figures on basically everything he felt like. Notably, he made the streets of Zurich and St. Gallen his stage, playing the role of an unconventional salesman.

Krüsi had little outside contact, hardly any family ties and became increasingly distanced from society and its norms. Throughout his life he remained in a fragile condition due to a history of tuberculosis. A congenitally weak state of health, problematic living conditions and a poor diet led to several stays in hospitals and nursing homes. During the final years of his life, his symptoms intensified. In September 1995, the artist died in his home due to pulmonary emphysema.

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

**Vorstand:**  
Carolin Rosner, Ralph Stabbert  
Wolfram Voigtländer  
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann

**Spendenkonto:**  
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft  
IBAN: DE42100205000001082600  
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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).

## For further information and images please contact us:

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improvised vending cart, around 1980  
mixed media, Swiss military knapsack et al.



Köpfeturm, undated  
mixed media on paper, 15x8



Anton Bruhin: Hans Krüsi in Zürich selling his works, around 1980

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Hans Krüsi Kunstmaler, undated  
Gouache and opaque white on paper and cardboard,  
framed with wooden strips, frame, H:89.5, B: 59, T: 4



Napkin with figures, animals and writing "Galöri", undated  
felt pen on paper napkin, 33.5 x 33.5

All photos/images: Copyright Nachlass Hans Krüsi, Kunstmuseum Thurgau

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