

# ROHKUNSTBAU<sup>®</sup> 25. The Jubilee Exhibition

Zärtlichkeit/Tenderness



Photos: Jan Brockhaus

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**OPEN 27 June 2020 to 20 September 2020, Sa/Su 12 - 6 pm**

Schloss Lieberose, Schlosshof 3, Lieberose Spreewald

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**ENTRANCE 10 Euro / discounted 7 Euro / free entrance for children under 12**

Get your ticket at [www.rohkunstbau.net](http://www.rohkunstbau.net) or on Eventbrite

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**25 years of ROHKUNSTBAU! The established art festival in Brandenburg is celebrating its anniversary together with artists from the last 25 editions, with many well-known names of the international art scene.**

Two decades prior to the countryside movement, ROHKUNSTBAU already looked to venues of retreat, out of the way of the big city hustle and bustle. In the relaxed, summery atmosphere, the festival's dialogue between art, nature and locals has long since advertised a harmonious togetherness and caring relationship with nature.

Yearly themes such as "Children's scenes" (2005), "Atlantis" (2009), "Power" (2011), "Revolution" (2014), "Apocalypse" (2015), "The Beauty in the Other" (2017) or "Attention – Mind the Gap" (2018) provided impetus for a deeper understanding of cultural, social, and political interconnections. Castles such as Kulturschloss Roskow, Wasserschloss Groß Leuthen, Schloss Sacrow, Schloss Marquardt and villas like Villa Kellermann in Potsdam were spectacular venues of these exhibitions. For this year's anniversary, the baroque castle Lieberose, once again, provides a unique mise-en-scène, a stone's throw away from the Spreewald.

Shaped by the Corona crisis and social distancing rules, this year's *ROHKUNSTBAU* motto seems paradoxical: "Tenderness. About Common Living." The curator of this year's *ROHKUNSTBAU* reunion is Dr. Heike Fuhlbrügge. The author and curator supersedes longstanding *ROHKUNSTBAU* curator Mark Gisbourne in 2020, coinciding with a change of organizers.

Brandenburg's most famous contemporary art festival will continue with an independent organizational structure run by the Verein der Freunde des Rohkunstbau e.V. In the past, the exhibition series – which was also presented multiple times at the Biennale d'Arte in Venice – was organized by the Heinrich-Böll Foundation Brandenburg.

In contrast to the current zeitgeist of cultural coolness and social toughness, *ROHKUNSTBAU* presents soft power, politics of tenderness and a "revolution of tender love" (Isabella Guanzini). The "tender" and "delicate" are freed from conceptions of the kitsch, weak, and whining, without overlooking the dark sides (such as missing distance, or the danger of aggression).

The showcased works span from subtle interventions in the historic castle (**Karin Sander**) and the painterly force of „tender landscapes“ (**José Noguero**) to the conservation of tenderness in mass media (object art by **Gregor Hildebrandt** made out of pressed romantic movies).

The Russian video artist **Olga Chernysheva** takes viewers on an elegiac steamboat ride. Russian folk music comes out of the ship's loudspeakers. The people are happy, dance, the landscape passes by leisurely and despite the overall triteness of the situation, a wonderful lightness comes up, at least for a moment.

In sculptures by **Bettina Pousttchi** or **Alicja Kwade**, tenderness expresses itself as an intimate combination of strength and yielding. **A K Dolven**'s works are about humans in isolation and **Ola Kolehmainen** devotes herself to shelters to inwardness. **Leiko Ikemura**'s Janus-faced rabbit sculpture reveals the ambivalences of intimacy. A twin figure by **Thomas Scheibitz** is also concerned with the motif of the "double face" and the interplay of attraction and repulsion.

By contrast, **Michael Sailstorfer** formulates antitheses to tenderness: with a patchwork of German police uniforms, the artist raises questions about police brutality as well as violence against police officers. The audience may step on the „police carpet“ and even trample on it. **Thomas Rentmeister** deals with points of pain resulting from a lack of solidarity and humanity. The material of his expansive installation - bed frames and children's toys - comes from an abandoned German refugee home.

Parts of the selected works form nuances, focusing on the charm of the casual, the game of fantasy, the resolution of the boundaries of the unambiguous and the special power of the subtle, sensitive and imaginary. „Imagination is the strongest force in my art,“ says the artist **Leiko Ikemura**. A declaration of love for 25 years of *ROHKUNSTBAU* - as a celebration of art and artists - is contributed by Berlin-based Turkish artist **Ayşe Erkmen** with a monumental outdoor sculpture.

The 20 artists in the anniversary exhibition are international, though most live in the German capital. From the beginning, *ROHKUNSTBAU* has also been a showcase for the art metropolis Berlin in the Brandenburg recreational area.

The atmosphere of forced interruption by the corona lockdown, life without handshake and hug and the feeling of standing on swaying ground have been incorporated into the project. In April it was still unclear whether the 25th *ROHKUNSTBAU* could take place at all this year. The exhibition will be in strict compliance with the hygiene guidelines.

25 years of *ROHKUNSTBAU* means a quarter of a century of top-class contemporary art at changing locations. The word *ROHKUNSTBAU* is derived from the first exhibition location in 1994: a concrete hall in Groß Leuthen near Lübben, which was built in 1989 for the workers' festival of the GDR and has remained a shell construction.

*ROHKUNSTBAU 25.* is organized by the Verein der Freunde des Rohkunstbau e.V.  
Curator: Dr. Heike Fuhlbrügge

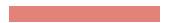
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*THE 20 ARTISTS OF THE 25TH ROHKUNSTBAU:*

1. **Olga Chernysheva** (RU) video, photography
  2. **A K Dolven** (NOR) conceptual art, photography, installation
  3. **Ayşe Erkmen** (TUR) conceptual art
  4. **Thomas Florschuetz** (DT) painting, sculpture
  5. **Gregor Hildebrandt** (DT) wall works and installation
  6. **Leiko Ikemura** (JP) painting, sculpture
  7. **Ola Kolehmainen** (FIN) photography
  8. **Alicja Kwade** (PL) sculpture
  9. **Via Lewandowsky** (DT) installation
  10. **Bjørn Melhus** (DT) film and video
  11. **Christiane Möbus** (DT) sculpture, installation
  12. **José Noguero** (ESP) painting
  13. **João Penalva** (PRT), video installation
  14. **Bettina Pousttchi** (DT/IRN) sculpture, installation
  15. **Thomas Rentmeister** (DT) sculpture, installation
  16. **Julian Rosefeldt** (DT) film and video
  17. **Michael Sailstorfer** (DT) sculpture, installation
  18. **Karin Sander** (DT) conceptual art
  19. **Yehudit Sasportas** (ISR) drawing, photography
  20. **Thomas Scheibitz** (DT) painting, sculpture
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*ROHKUNSTBAU and Covid-19:*

The exhibition will be held under the currently prescribed hygiene regulations. Visits are therefore only possible for 50 guests at a time. You can only access the exhibition with a ticket. Due to the current situation tickets are sold for a one-hour window. The pre-sale will take place online. Please book your ticket/your tickets in advance via [www.rohkunstbau.net](http://www.rohkunstbau.net). The current distance regulations apply for the exhibition. Wearing a mask is mandatory.



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