

## **Winner of the exhibition series "Update Cologne #05" is Christine Reifenberger**

After four successful runs in previous years, the exhibition series "Update Cologne" will be continued in the rooms of the Michael Horbach Foundation in 2022. A partially new eight-member jury evaluated the 80 applications for this year's call for entries, particularly with regard to the quality of the younger works submitted, the overall body of work, and the fact that the artist must have been a resident of Cologne for at least ten years as well as being persistently artistically active.

Taking these criteria into account, the decision for 2022 was made in favor of Christine Reifenberger. The artist's works extend the classical medium of painting on paper supports into the three-dimensional. Visually and tactilely, they open up a space of color and form that changes with one's own movement.

Through many years of observing natural phenomena, an intensive preoccupation with growth, the cyclical and dissolution has entered Reifenberger's artistic visual language. The fleeting movement of nature - especially aspects of vegetation - is condensed by the artist in a moment of high concentration into a picture or a free-floating or lying sculpture.

By working on the paper with highly liquefied paint, through curvatures, twists and folds, the picture supports become color objects. Painting is thus fluid material turned into form, comparable to the snapshot of an intermediate state, seemingly ready to move on, dissolve or transform at any time - analogous to the incessant creative processes in nature.

Reifenberger's works oscillate between a fine sense of the objects created through the pouring of paint and the treatment of them into proliferating forms that exude the spirit and energy of the Baroque and Rococo periods. Irritations of the viewer with regard to materiality play an important role here. For some time now, Reifenberger has been incorporating copper, aluminum, phosphorus, sulfur and neon pigments into her work processes for this purpose. (Source: Isabel Hufschmidt "Short text about the painting of Christine Reifenberger" see [www.christine-reifenberger.de](http://www.christine-reifenberger.de))

The artist was born in 1965 in Waldsassen / Bavaria. She trained as a theater painter at the Munich State Opera, then studied with Professor Daniel Spoerri at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. She completed her studies at the Düsseldorf Art Academy in 1998 with Prof. A.R. Penck and Prof. Gotthard Graubner. Christine Reifenberger lives and works in Cologne and Andernach/ Kell since 1992.

"Update Cologne #05" will be on view from Sunday, January 9, 2022 (vernissage 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.), up to and including Sunday, February 20, 2022, in the rooms of the Horbach Foundation. The finissage with presentation of the publication is scheduled for Sunday, February 20, 2022, 11 am. Opening hours (according to the then currently valid regulations and requirements): Wednesdays and Fridays 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Background:

The "Update Cologne" format is dedicated to Cologne artists over the age of 50 who have been continuously active in Cologne for a long period of time, but whose work has rarely been shown on a larger scale here locally - due to a lack of generous exhibition space. Artistic production of high quality and a wide range of media takes place in Cologne studios. Since the demolition of the Cologne Kunsthalle, however, Cologne has lacked an exhibition hall that would enable local artists to present their work in larger spaces that would allow the public to see more than just an excerpt of their oeuvre. In 2017, this desire gave rise to an initiative by the Cologne Cultural Office to find new cooperation partners, and with them a suitable range of spaces for Cologne artists. Thanks to the cooperation with the Michael Horbach Foundation, it has been possible to offer a space to local artists that is unparalleled in Cologne.

In recent years, works by Adi Meier-Grolman (2018), Heiner Blumenthal and Matthias Surges (2019), Doris Frohnepfel and Jon Shelton (2020), and Gudrun Barenbrock (2021) have been shown as part of "Update Cologne."

The exhibition series is constantly supported by the Kulturred der Stadt Köln as co-initiator of the series, as well as optionally financially supported by further, annually changing sponsors. Since 2018, the Kulturwerk des BBK Köln e.V. has acted as the sponsor of the series and provides regular information on the status of the project on the website [www.update-cologne.de](http://www.update-cologne.de). "Update Cologne" is curated by Birgit Laskowski ([www.zerofold.de](http://www.zerofold.de)).

