

Autofictions – Contemporary Drawing

17 November 2018 to 24 February 2019

Press conference: Thursday, 15 November 2018, 11 a.m.

Exhibition opening: Friday, 16 November 2018, 6 p.m.

Featuring over 160 works by 33 international artists, the exhibition **Autofictions – Contemporary Drawing** at the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum presents an exciting cross-section of current approaches in the field of contemporary drawing.

In 2006, the French collectors Florence and Daniel Guerlain initiated a prize for contemporary drawing that would become the showpiece of the foundation they established ten years earlier: the **Prix de dessin de la Fondation d'art contemporain Daniel & Florence Guerlain**. For the first time in Germany, the exhibition at the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum brings together a selection of works by all the nominated and prize-winning artists since its inception.

The works on show range from the narrative and autobiographical to the fantastic. This aspect is reflected in the title *Autofictions* – a term from the field of literary criticism coined in the 1970s by the French writer and critic Serge Doubrovsky that describes a combination of autobiographical and fictional narrative.

The exhibition's four chapters demonstrate the negotiation and incorporation of autobiographical and fictional narratives in the practice of drawing in the age of digitalisation and social media. The chapter titled *The Eloquence of the Line* focuses especially on the narrative potential of abstraction in works such as those by **Tomma Abts**, **Silvia Bächli** and **Jorinde Voigt**. Artists like **Martin Assig**, **Sandra Vásquez de la Horra** and **Jean-Luc Ver-na** offer insights into personal and emotional states in *Body and Soul: Intimate Reflections*. The chapter *Private Mythologies* examines for example drawings by **Ulla von Brandenburg**, **Leiko Ikemura**, **Cameron Jamie**, **Amelie von Wulffen** in which one's own biography is interwoven with cultural, social and political narratives while the chapter *Storytelling* devotes itself to varieties of contemporary narrative within the oeuvre of artists like **Charles Avery**, **Marc Bauer**, **Hans Op de Beeck** and **Marcel van Eeden**.

In the case of the **Prix de dessin**, the term drawing encompasses all artistic endeavours on paper. Accordingly, works ranging from collage, watercolour and all mixed techniques up to and including subtractive methods are included in the exhibition. With the exception of computer techniques and mechanical reproduction methods, all means of graphic expression are eligible.

Three artists are annually nominated for the prize by an international commission of specialists. The prize wishes to support artists who employ the medium of drawing as an essential means of expression. It is directed at French as well as foreign artists, the latter under the condition that they have a pronounced cultural connection to France, for example through exhibitions in French museums, studies or grants. The recipient is selected by an international jury of renowned collectors. The make-up of the jury changes from year to year.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Swiss artist Marc Bauer conceived a wall painting for the space on the first floor ramp of the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum that references his *In the Past, Only* series, which is on show in the exhibition.

Curators: Astrid Ihle, René Zechlin

Catalogue: The exhibition catalogue published by DISTANZ Verlag features texts by Tobias Burg (curator of prints and drawings, Folkwang Museum, Essen), Kate Macfarlane (co-founder and co-director of the Drawing Room London), Katharine Stout (deputy director, ICA, London; co-founder and associate director of the Drawing Room London), Julia Katharina Thiemann (curator and art historian).

Exhibition opening: Friday, 16 November, 6 p.m.

A selection of images is available in the **Press section** under <http://www.wilhelmhack.museum/presse/autofiktionen-zeichnung-der-gegenwart/>
For hi-res picture material, please contact the press office.

Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Lena Kräuter, Berliner Straße 23, 67059 Ludwigshafen am Rhein,
00 49 621 504-2934, lena.kraeuter@ludwigshafen.de.