

PETER HERRMANN

b.1937 Zittau, Germany / Lives and works in Berlin

Peter Herrmann, one of the greatest artists of his generation, witnessed the division of East and West Germany. In 1984, he escaped from East Germany to Hamburg and has lived in Berlin since 1986. His paintings capture everyday life—figures, city scenes, and ordinary objects—rendered with humor and subtle sarcasm, inviting both reflection and amusement. Through his work, he seamlessly blends past and present, reality and imagination, and the cultural experiences of East and West Germany with a distinctive lightness.

His artistic style, reminiscent of early Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Henri Rousseau, carries a playful spirit akin to the Junge Wilde movement while maintaining its own distinct voice. Deeply devoted to painting, he approaches his craft with both seriousness and ease, skillfully intertwining different moments and eras. His goal is not merely to be modern; the luminous colors of Piero della Francesca and the enigmatic shadows of Arnold Böcklin resonate in his work, lending it a timeless presence. Frequently described as "dream paintings," his art bridges history and the present, offering viewers a sense of continuity and connection across time and culture.

Peter Herrmann's artworks entered prestigious institutional collections such as the Ludwig Museum, Berlinische Galerie, Museum of Fine Arts in Leipzig, National Museums in Berlin (Prussian Cultural Heritage).

BIO

2001 Fred Thieler Prize for Painting, Berlinische Galerie, Landesmuseum für Moderne Kunst, Fotografie und Architektur, Berlin

1999 Scholarship from Konrad Adenauer Foundation; Full Member of Saxon Academy of Arts

1998 Villa Romana Prize, ten-month-stay in Florence

1995 Travel to Brasil

1994 First acquaintance with Anke Appuhn

1988 Travels to Algeria, France and Italy

1987 Work scholarship from the Senate Office for Cultural Affairs

1986 Move to West Berlin

1985 First trip to London to visit his friend A. R. Penck, painting in his studio

1984 Departure from GDR. Arrival in Hamburg

1982 Application to leave GDR

1977 Co-founderder of Obergrabenpresse in Dresden

1971 Freelance painter

1954 Participating in a painting course at Volkshochschule in Dresden byJürgen Böttcher/Strawalde

1951 Apprenticeship as Chemigraph

1944 Evacuation to Dresden

1939 Move to Breslau

1937 born on May 18, in Großschönau near Zittau

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'der Wolf ist tot!', Bermel von Luxburg Gallery, Berlin
- 2021 'Peters Tisch', Bermel von Luxburg Gallery, Berlin
- 2018 Peter Herrmann - Malerei von 1984 bis 2018, Bermel von Luxburg Gallery, Berlin
- 2017 Galerie Poll, Berlin
- 2017 Zitadelle Spandau
- 2017 Orlando Museum of Art, Florida
- 2016 Malergrü.e aus Berlin, Kunstmuseum Kloster Unser Lieben Frauen, Magdeburg
- 2015 Englishrot und Taubengrau/English Red and Dove Grey, Botschaft der BRD, London
- 2015 Galerie Fahrradbüro, Berlin
- 2015 Gallery Anna Zorina, New York
- 2012 Ostende, Leonhardi-Museum, Dresden
- 2010 Breakthrough. 20 Years after German Unification, Nashville; Aspen; Washington D.C. San Antonio; Chicago (G) 2008 Disegni. Peter Herrmann, Terme del Tufaro, Contursi Terme
- 2007 Das Leben ein Fest, Museum Junge Kunst, Frankfurt/Oder
- 2003 DC: Peter Herrmann, Museum Ludwig, Köln
- 2002 Kunstsommer, KaDeWe, Berlin (G)
- 2001 Fred-Thieler-Preis: Peter Herrmann, Lapidarium, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin
- 1997 Deutschlandbilder, Kunst aus einem geteilten Land, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (G)
- 1996 Trois artistes berlinois, Carré Sainte-Anne, Montpellier (G)
- 1995 Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro, (G)
- 1994 Wassermusik, Galerie Rotes Haus, Schwetzingen
- 1993 Weiße Fahne - Gebranntes Kind - Watzmann, Kunstmuseum Kloster Unser Lieben Frauen, Magdeburg, Kunstamt Wedding, Berlin (G)
- 1991 Gespräch mit Henri Rousseau, Galerie am Savigny-Platz Berlin
- 1991 Erste Phalanx nedserd. Ein Freundeskreis in Dresden 1953-1965, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Lindenau Museum
- 1990 Marienhospital, Brühl'
- 1989 Bleu de Prusse, Goethe-Institut, Paris (mit Hans Scheib)
- 1988 Waldkrankenhaus, Bonn, Bad Godesberg
- 1985 Dresden-Hamburg, Galerie am Savigny-Platz, Berlin (West)
- 1980 Galerie Arkade, Berlin (Ost)
- 1979 Damastmuseum-Großschönau (G)
- 1976 Leonhardi-Museum, Dresden; Winckelmann-Museum, Stendal
- 1965 Malerei - Grafik - Plastik, Puschkin-Haus, Dresden (G)
- 1961 Junge Künstler Malerei, Akademie der Künste Berlin (Ost) (G)

COLLECTIONS

- Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen
- Berlinische Galerie
- National Museums in Berlin - Prussian Cultural Heritage
- Foundation City Museum, Berlin

Collection of Contemporary Art of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn
Art Museum Dieselkraftwerk, Cottbus
Museum No Hero, Delden
Military History Museum, Dresden
State Art Collections, Dresden
Villa Romana Artists' House, Florence
Art Collection of the Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main
Museum Ludwig, Cologne
Museum of Fine Arts, Leipzig
Art Museum Unser Lieben Frauen Monastery, Magdeburg