

Aachen, 22 September 2025



26 October 2025 – 08 February 2026

Intervention

NO BORDER: NRW – BELGIUM

Kati Heck, Johanna Roderburg, Felicitas Rohden,
Monika Stricker

Opening: 25 October 2025, 3 p.m.

Press tour: 23 October 2025, 11 a.m.

To maintain regular exchange with neighbouring countries, Kunsthaus NRW launched the exhibition series *Trans Europe Express* in 2024. Following the opening presentation with David Claerbout (*1969 in Kortrijk, Belgium), we continue the series in 2025 with the Belgium stop: a group exhibition featuring seven outstanding positions from Belgium's young art scene. In parallel, the *Spiegelgalerie* (Mirror Gallery) on the upper floor will host the intervention **NO BORDER: NRW – BELGIUM**, presenting works by four women artists from North Rhine-Westphalia who live and work in both countries and maintain close artistic exchange with Belgium.

Kati Heck, *Frau Heck, jetzt mal im Ernst*, 2013, oil and charcoal on canvas, 130 x 100 cm
Courtesy Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp-Rome, in private collection

—

The art scenes of Germany and Belgium, particularly in the border region, have traditionally been closely interconnected. Brussels and Antwerp, as highly international cities, exert a strong attraction on many artists. At the same time, one repeatedly encounters shared artistic references on both sides of the border. The Belgian Marcel Broodthaers left a lasting mark on conceptual art in the Rhineland during his time in Düsseldorf. Mutual attributions can also be fruitful: Belgians and Rhinelanders alike ascribe to each other great painting traditions - one thinks of Rubens, René Magritte, and Luc Tuymans, and conversely of Andreas Achenbach, Gerhard Richter, and Katharina Grosse. In practice, exchange functions smoothly: the featured artists lead productive double lives on both sides of the border. (Artist texts → on page 3)

—

Networking artists within Europe is a key concern of Kunsthaus NRW and an important form of support for artists in North Rhine-Westphalia. Cross-border exchange takes advantage of Kunsthaus NRW's geographical location near Belgium with its diverse cultural regions, and, since 1997, of Belgium's role as the seat of European institutions.

—

Kunsthaus NRW is a member of the cross-border network *VERY CONTEMPORARY*, which connects art institutions from Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands. //

The exhibition is curated by Elke Kania and Dr Marcel Schumacher.

We look forward to your visit and your coverage!

→ Image material will be available for download in the press section of our website from October.

→ For guided tours and event dates relating to current exhibitions, please check our website.

ARTISTS

—

KATI HECK (*1979 in Düsseldorf, lives and works in Pulle, Belgium) was appointed Professor of Painting at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf in 2024. She has exhibited only rarely in NRW, but is regarded as a star in Belgium. Her artistic work has been shaped by her studies in Belgium (Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten Antwerpen, 1999–2003) and by exchange with Belgian artists such as Guillaume Bijl. She engages playfully with different painting traditions: technically masterful realist painting is interrupted by passages in a sketch-like manner. Provocative characters fascinate the viewer - one thinks of Peter Paul Rubens and Francis Bacon - while being surprised by textual elements or caricatures.

—

JOHANNA RODERBURG (*1956 in Aachen, lives and works in Aachen) is represented in the exhibition with works from a series depicting people (predominantly women) looking at paintings. She has maintained an artistic exchange for many years with Joëlle Tuerlinckx, an important Belgian artist and art professor. In the painting *Cologne 2020 (J.T. I Laurent Dupont)*, Tuerlinckx is shown viewing an overpainted cardboard work by the conceptual Belgian painter Laurent Dupont. Roderburg translated the photograph of this scene into photorealistic oil painting — a delightful play with pictorial planes and techniques. The painting *Basel 2016 (J.T. Salle d'Argent)* shows photographer Aglaia Konrad in an installation by Joëlle Tuerlinckx at the Kunstmuseum Basel. In 2016, Tuerlinckx had lined the exhibition space with silver-coloured Belgian chocolate wrappers, creating a display for her own works: a “Salle d'Argent.” Beyond painterly finesse, this work also reflects on the title's wordplay: in French, »d'argent« means both »silver« and »money.«

FELICITAS ROHDEN (*1984 in Haan, lives in Brussels and Düsseldorf) acts as a mediator between the art scenes of both regions. After studying in Düsseldorf, she taught from 2015 to 2024 at the Sint Lucas School of Arts in Antwerp; since 2024 she has been Professor of Form and Colour at the Peter Behrens School of Arts / Hochschule Düsseldorf. Her conceptually oriented art combines artistic media and techniques in an intensive engagement with scientific topics. At Kunsthaus NRW, two works from the series *Motion of Knots (Braiding)* are on view, for which she explored quantum computers. At first glance, one might think of sailors' knots or Leonardo da Vinci's rope ornaments, but in fact Rohden's 3D prints depict the intertwining of the trajectories of »anions« - the smallest, fastest, and most peculiar particles of atoms. Only when several anions cluster together, at the moment of their crossing, can they be measured at all. Rohden renders these interweavings (braidings). For the 3D prints, she uses castor oil instead of the usual nylon - organic and fully biodegradable.

MONIKA STRICKER (*1978 in Düsseldorf, lives and works in Brussels and Düsseldorf) created conceptual works until 2019 that alienated objects in the post-minimalist tradition. After studying at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, she now divides her life between Brussels and Düsseldorf. In recent years, she has developed a painterly oeuvre that references recent Belgian painting history, from Luc Tuymans to trivial painting. She probes the boundaries between seriousness and commercial kitsch, between a longing for emotionality and the unmasking of false naivety. She employs the painterly effects of traditional technique to create an immediate connection with the viewer. Was not Romanticism, in its origins, a protest movement against reactionary political powers? In this light, the turn of a conceptual artist toward painting seems to formulate a response to our own time.

//

press contact

Melanie Weidemüller
Head of Press & Communication
+49 (0)151 - 22 23 60 84
weidemueller@kunsthaus.nrw

Online
www.kunsthaus.nrw
info@kunsthaus.nrw
www.facebook.com/kunsthausnrw/
www.instagram.com/kunsthausnrw

Opening hours
Thu-Sat 12 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun and public holidays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Free admission!

Kunsthaus NRW gGmbH
Abteigarten 6
D-52076 Aachen-Kornelimünster
Managing Director & Artistic Director:
Dr. Marcel Schumacher

Supported by:

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Do you want to stay informed conveniently at all times?

→ Subscribe to our newsletter via the website!

→ Follow us on Instagram and Facebook!