

PRESS RELEASE

galerie burster berlin

Laura Mercedes Arndt | *DIE NACHT IST JUNG*

12 September – 12 October 2024

Opening

Thursday, 12 September 2024, 6 – 9 pm

We are pleased to present Laura Mercedes Arndt's first solo exhibition *DIE NACHT IST JUNG* at galerie burster Berlin as part of BERLIN ART WEEK.

In the shadow of the night, figures gather under the open sky on Laura Mercedes Arndt's large-scale canvases, forming a mysterious community. Their touches are gentle, their movements fluid, as if they are absorbing and sharing the energy of the earth on which they sit, lie, and stand. They breathe in harmony with nature, their large hands clasping the blades of grass. With half-open or fully closed eyes, they are immersed in a silent exchange.

The bodies that Laura Mercedes Arndt brings together on her canvases are robust and impressive in their stature, almost sculptural. Yet their colour and texture remain soft, the skin earthy and warm, a blend of delicate pinks and browns. Naked, save for simple white underwear, they reveal an intimate, vulnerable, yet innocently playful side. Despite their nudity in the midst of the body hubbub, there is no erotic connotation. Instead, their physical similarity to one another stands out. By replicating and varying the same figure—sometimes with long hair, sometimes with a short haircut—the artist deftly avoids any clear attribution of sexual identity. At the heart of the painting lies the quiet strength that emanates from these figures. Each body is distinctly outlined, yet there is a palpable yearning in the air to transcend solitude, to merge into a collective body, to connect and fuse into a unified whole.

Influenced by the vast landscape and flat horizon lines in the north of the East German province, Laura Mercedes Arndt creates a rural idyll and communal bond that feels familiar from socialist wall decorations. However, she does not depict the human form in a classically idealised way, nor do the bodies, in their

simple forms, appear heroic. The artist collects visual material—historical and contemporary, religious and secular—and reinterprets it by weaving these different visual worlds together into a single motif. The resulting works harmonise dreamlike worlds and hybrid creatures such as fauns with sacred references. This subtle ambivalence infuses an otherwise familiar symbolism and aesthetic. Harmoniously, almost contemplatively, a new unity of figures emerges on the canvases, setting off into the still young night.

Laura Mercedes Arndt (b. 1999 in Ribnitz-Damgarten, lives and works in Berlin) studied at the Weißensee Academy of Art Berlin, where she graduated with a diploma in the summer of 2024. Her work has already been shown in several solo and group exhibitions in recent years, most recently at the Museum Fluxus+ in Potsdam.

For more information, please contact Leonie Rösler: mail@galerieburster.com

Opening hours: Thursday – Friday 12 – 6 pm and by appointment