

Press Release

galerie burster | karlsruhe

4 Students – Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe

Mareike Groß | Lina Härer | Emmy Tema | Changxiao Wang

Opening Saturday, 20 September, 2 – 7 pm
 during Galerientag Karlsruhe

Exhibition 20 September – 18 October 18, 2025

For Galerientag Karlsruhe, galerie burster | karlsruhe presents a group exhibition featuring students from the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe. The exhibition showcases selected works by students from the classes of Professor Franz Ackermann, Professor Tatjana Doll and Professor Sophie von Hellermann. With *4 Students*, galerie burster continues a longstanding tradition of close collaboration with art academies in Germany. The aim is to offer emerging artists a platform within the professional exhibition context and to provide visitors with insight into current artistic positions of the younger generation.

The exhibited works span contemporary figuration, experimental approaches to color field painting and conceptual exploration. The exhibition reflects the diversity of painterly expression as well as the themes that young artists are currently engaging with. These include the body and identity, memory and perception, and the influence of digital imagery.

Mareike Groß (born 2001 in Filderstadt, Germany) explores inner emotional states through painting. Her work deals with absence, need, gratitude, the desire to preserve, and experiences that resist verbal expression. Her painting unfolds through gestures such as touching, holding and observing. These gestures reveal a distinct attentiveness to what becomes visible when looking closely. Groß explores the tension between external strength and inner fragility. Her visual language embraces sensitivity, delicacy and honesty, which she views as powerful qualities. Rather than aiming to explain or illustrate, her work seeks to make emotional experience perceptible. Mareike Groß lives and works in Karlsruhe. She studies in the class of Sophie von Hellermann at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe.

Lina Härer (born 1996 in Schorndorf, Germany) brings painting and provocation into dialogue. Her practice centers around the question of whether beauty or ugliness should be shown in order to represent existence. Instead of choosing one over the other, she embraces both and derives her artistic agency from this duality. Pastel is a key medium in her work. Color, form and language intertwine and exist side by side in her paintings. Her interest lies in the social conditions and power structures that shape our lives. For Härer, painting is a form of resistance. She understands freedom not only as individual autonomy, but as a collective demand that must extend to all living beings. Lina Härer lives and works in Karlsruhe and Welzheim.

Emmy Tema (born 2006 in Karlsruhe, Germany) lives and works in Karlsruhe. In the works presented in this exhibition, she examines stereotypically socialized female faces, defined by features such as earrings, long eyelashes and hair. These works focus on emotions of guilt and responsibility that emerge during times of sociopolitical transformation. Tema explores the tension between oppression and the powerful potential for change during such moments. Through the depiction of a total of ten individual faces, a sense of collective awareness arises—one that reflects both shared and individual responsibility. Her work creates a space for confrontation, encouraging viewers to critically engage with the positions presented.

Changxiao Wang (born 1992 in Hebei, China) investigates the relationship between color perception, memory and emotional impact in his paintings. Starting from everyday smartphone images, he develops a distinctive visual language by reducing the images to tonal values and working with free color compositions. His works shift between representation and abstraction. Carefully balanced color contrasts and fluid transitions create intense visual experiences that linger in memory. Wang questions our visual habits and reveals how perception is shaped by stored images and personal recollection. Changxiao Wang lives and works in Karlsruhe.

For further information please contact Rita Burster: mail@galerieburster.com

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