

Press Release

Laura Mercedes Arndt quietly bound

Exhibition 10. Juli – 30. August 2025

Under the open sky, figures gather on Laura Mercedes Arndt's large-scale canvases, forming mysterious communities. The life-size bodies are devout yet at ease, gently pushing, carrying and cradling one another through the pictorial space as they engage in quiet exchanges. 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. Hands are seen repeatedly holding, supporting, pulling and pointing towards one another.

Although the composition of the figures is reminiscent of Christian iconographic scenes of lamentation, crucifixion and descent from the cross from the Renaissance and Late Gothic periods, Arndt's depiction lacks the mournful tone of Rubens and Ribera. The arrangement primarily testifies to an intimate connection between the figures. Lovingly, gently and almost playfully, they perform the rituals, creating their own quiet truth. By duplicating the same figure, Arndt subtly undermines the clear attribution of sexual identity and reimagines traditional modes of representation. At the same time, the importance of the collective is emphasised. This narrative does not require a central protagonist — here, everyone needs each other. The artist collects visual material, historical and contemporary, religious and secular, and reinterprets it by interweaving the different visual worlds and uniting them in a single motif.

The horizontal lines and vast landscapes that shaped Laura Mercedes Arndt's childhood are a recurring theme in her paintings and represent spaces of potential. They evoke the rural idyll and sense of community familiar to us from socialist wall decorations. However, the formal play with the highly concentrated lighting of the images creates a sense of fatalism. Beneath this apparent lightness lurks a sense of uncertainty: is everything here really as good as it seems? *quietly bound* oscillates between feminist utopia and cautious questioning of community, individuality, and exclusion.

Laura Mercedes Arndt (born in Ribnitz-Damgarten in 1999) lives and works in Berlin. She studied at the Berlin Weissensee School of Art, where she completed her Meisterschüler degree under Pia Linz in the summer of 2025. Her works have been shown in several solo and group exhibitions in recent years, most recently at the Museum Fluxus+ in Potsdam.

For a guided tour of the exhibition, please contact Rita Burster: mail@galerieburster.com