

Press Release

Laura Mercedes Arndt *when we gather*

Opening Thursday, 23 October, 6–9 pm
Exhibition 23 October – 29 November 2025

In the work of Laura Mercedes Arndt, figures come together in quiet acts of holding, supporting and carrying one another. These are moments of still but powerful connection. What unfolds feels like a gathering without a center, a circle of kindred bodies whose movements appear both ritualistic and deeply familiar. Arndt paints her figures in soft shades of pink, ochre and brown, nude or dressed in plain white underwear. Their skin has an earthy quality, the light is focused and clear. The scenes emanate calm, yet beneath the surface lies a subtle tension, as if we are witnessing an event whose meaning remains just out of reach.

The figures resemble one another, sharing features, posture and gesture. Through their multiplication, identity becomes a collective state rather than an individual trait. These are not portraits of individuals, but images of a shared existence. They are free from hierarchy or gender roles and are carried by a sense of mutual trust. Touch, care and equality are a given, as if everyone instinctively knows what needs to be done, without anyone leading.

Arndt draws on familiar visual traditions. Works such as *Taufe* (Baptism), *Kleine Beweinung* (Little Lamentation) and *Als Caritas* (As Caritas) are reminiscent of iconographic scenes from the Renaissance and late Gothic periods. What was once an expression of religious devotion becomes a secular, contemporary choreography. The drama of suffering gives way to a quiet tenderness. The water of baptism becomes a symbol of closeness, the gesture of anointment becomes a loving touch, and the ritual becomes an everyday act. The cross becomes a ladder, and resurrection becomes a shared rising. Vessels appear as recurring elements, filled not with visible water but with the sense of it. Water is never shown directly, yet it is present in every gesture – in the act of holding, of offering, and of doing something together. It stands for care, cleansing and connection.

The spaces in which these figures move are vast yet enclosed, covered in a subtle, nocturnal glow. They resemble landscapes that seem more dreamed than seen. These are spaces of possibility, places where ideas of community are explored and reimagined. Somewhere between resurrection, peace and love, a gentle utopia begins to emerge. It is a place where closeness does not threaten but sustains.

when we gather becomes an invitation to pause, to look and to feel what arises when people meet and choose to stay.

Laura Mercedes Arndt (born 1999 in Ribnitz-Damgarten) lives and works in Berlin. She studied painting at the Kunsthochschule Berlin Weißensee and completed her masterclass studies with Pia Linz in the summer of 2025. In 2024, she was awarded the first prize of museum FLUXUS+studis and presented her first solo exhibition at galerie burster, Berlin. Her work has been shown at museum FLUXUS+ in Potsdam, at Künstlerhaus Bethanien and at the POSITIONS Berlin Art Fair, among other venues.

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

Opening hours: Thursday – Friday 2 – 6 pm, Saturday 12 – 4 pm and by appointment