

MGK Siegen

Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen
Unteres Schloss 1
57072 Siegen

FRI. 23.6.2022
Press release

Miriam Cahn MEINEJUDEN 14th Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen 26.6.–23.10.22

Since the beginnings of her artistic development during the 1970s, Miriam Cahn has adopted a consciously feminist and self-determined standpoint. Starting out from drawing and completely unfettered by academic rules, Cahn has produced a painterly oeuvre of immense expressive power, also incorporating other artistic forms such as writing, photography, filming and sculptural work. The focus of her interest is mankind, the fragility of the human body as well as its relationship to nature: to animals, plants and landscapes. Personal experiences, family memories and present-day observations are combined with socio-political events. Womanhood, gender, love, sexuality, violence, anti-Semitism, war and flight are recurring themes. Uncompromisingly, Cahn confronts the viewer with her view of the unspeakable, demanding a close look and a profound engagement with the many contradictions of our world.

The exhibition MEINEJUDEN (My Jews), marking the award of the 14th Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen, offers a comprehensive overview of Miriam Cahn's oeuvre. In fourteen rooms conceived especially for the purpose by the artist, she presents important groups of works and installations from the last five decades, also numerous new works. In addition to intensely colourful paintings, the exhibition presents floor-to-ceiling chalk drawings, works on paper in pastels and watercolours, sculptures, performative videos, early sketchbooks and texts. Picking up the exhibition title she selected, in her current works the Rubens Prize winner deals once more with the fact of being Jewish.

Miriam Cahn (born in Basel in 1949) represents one of the most highly regarded artistic positions in Switzerland; today, she is also considered one of the world's most important artists. She was invited to documenta 7 in Kassel in 1982 and represented at the Venice Biennale in 1984. Since then, her work has been shown in numerous international solo and group exhibitions, including Kunsthalle Basel (1983), Museum of Modern Art, New York (1984), Kunstmuseum Bonn (1985), Kunsthaus Zurich (1993), Fundación La Caixa, Madrid (2003), Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2004), Badischer Kunstverein (2014) and Kunsthalle Kiel (2016). Miriam Cahn was represented at documenta 14, Kassel (2017), and the 21st Sydney Biennale (2018). In 2019 alone, Cahn had major exhibitions across Europe, including the Kunstmuseum Bern, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Reina Sofía Madrid, Haus der Kunst Munich, and the National Gallery of Modern Art Warsaw. Last year, The Power Plant, Toronto is showing an

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extensive solo presentation of the artist's work. She herself realised "FREMD das fremde" – a site-specific exhibition in Palazzo Castelmur (Canton Graubünden/Switzerland). Her work is 2022 being presented at the Fondazione ICA Milano, Milan, and in the main exhibition of the 59th Venice Biennale. In 2023, a large solo exhibition by Miriam Cahn will open at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. Miriam Cahn lives and works in Stampa, Graubünden, Switzerland.

An accompanying brochure as well as a comprehensive monograph, published by DISTANZ Verlag in September 2022 with text contributions from Debora Antmann, Miriam Cahn, Carolin Emcke, Tamara Loewenstein, Hanno Loewy and Thomas Thiel, will mark the exhibition and the 14th Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen.

Curator: Thomas Thiel

Supported by the University City of Siegen and the Peter Paul Rubens Foundation



PETER . PAUL . RUBENS . STIFTUNG

The Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen

Miriam Cahn will be awarded the 14th Rubens Prize from the City of Siegen on 26 June 2022. Every five years since 1957, the renowned art prize has been awarded to an artist living in Europe for their complete oeuvre, with a focus on painting and graphic art. The Rubens Prize is endowed with € 25,000 and also includes a publication and an exhibition at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen. A jury of experts (Prof. Jutta Koether, Professor of Painting and Drawing, HFBK Hamburg, Prof. Dr. Astrid Mania, Professor of Art Criticism and Modern Art History, HFBK Hamburg, Prof. Philippe Pirotte, Professor of Art History and Curatorial Studies, Städelschule Frankfurt, Prof. Susanne Pfeffer, Director, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt, and Prof. Dr. Beate Söntgen, Professor of Art History, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg) has selected artist Miriam Cahn, born in Basel in 1949, as the new prize winner.

The Rubens Prize commemorates the painter Peter Paul Rubens, who was born in Siegen and who, as a leading master of European Baroque painting, set the artistic standards to which the award has been committed since 1957.

To date, the Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen has been awarded to Hans Hartung (1957), Giorgio Morandi (1962), Francis Bacon (1967), Antoni Tàpies (1972), Fritz Winter (1977), Emil Schumacher (1982), Cy Twombly (1987), Rupprecht Geiger (1992), Lucian Freud (1997), Maria Lassnig (2002), Sigmar Polke (2007), Bridget Riley (2012) and Niele Toroni (2017).

The Lambrecht-Schadeberg Collection, currently owned by the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, comprises important and extensive groups of works by all the Rubens Prize winners. Currently amounting to over 300 exhibits, the collection offers an excellent overview of work by the first thirteen Rubens Prize winners. Works by the new prize winner will supplement this collection in future.

Press Conference

FRI. 24.6. 12 am

With artist Miriam Cahn, Steffen Mues, Mayor of the City of Siegen and Thomas Thiel, Curator and Director MGKSiegen

Award Ceremony

SUN. 26.6. 2 pm

Miriam Cahn, 14th Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen

Award ceremony in the main hall of the Siegerlandhalle

Presentation of the 14th Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen to Miriam Cahn by Steffen Mues, Mayor of the University City of Siegen.

Laudation: Prof Philipp Pirotte, Professor of Art History and Curatorial Studies, Städelschule Frankfurt

The award will be presented during a festive meeting of the Council of the University City of Siegen.

Exhibition opening

SUN. 26.6. 5 pm

Miriam Cahn, MEINEJUDEN, 14th Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen

Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen

Welcome speeches by Steffen Mues, Mayor of the City of Siegen and Hans-Heinrich Grosse-Brockhoff, Chairman of the Supervisory Board and President of The Peter Paul Rubens-Foundation, and introduction by Thomas Thiel, Director, MGKSiegen. An accompanying programme will focus on the museum: open studio for children, hands-on activities and art guides within the exhibition.

Entry free of charge until 9pm

Talk

THU. 30.6, 7pm

Jüdischsein im Dazwischen

Discussion on the Jewish present in Germany

With Debora Antmann, Author, Berlin, Allon Sander, Chairmen of the association CJZ Siegerland e.V. and Tamara Löwenstein, Curator, Berlin; Moderation: Laura Cazés, Advisor for Association

Development at The Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST)

In German

Ticket included in the entrance fee

Lecture

THU. 9.6. 7pm

Ein Blick zurück

Der Rubenspreis in 13 Ausstellungskatalogen

Christian Spies, Curator of the Lambrecht-Schadeberg Collection

In German

Ticket included in the entrance fee

WED. 6.7. 7pm

händehoch / entblößt

Flucht und Flüchtiges in der Kunst von Miriam Cahn

Burcu Dogramaci, Professor at Kunsthistorische Institut, Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich

In German

Ticket included in the entrance fee

THU. 1.9. 7pm

Blick zurück im Zorn

Miriam Cahns Malerei der ethischen Verantwortung

Kathleen Bühler, Chief Curator, Kunstmuseum Bern

In German

Ticket included in the entrance fee

THU. 15.9. 7pm

Hans Hartung

Die körperliche Geste und die Körpernorm

Dominik Eckel, art historian, Cologne

In German

Ticket included in the entrance fee

THU. 6.10. 7pm

Die Kunst der Unbestechlichen

Thomas D. Trummer, Director Kunsthhaus Bregenz

In German

Ticket included in the entrance fee

THU. 20.10. 7pm
Im Spiegel der Fotografie
Francis Bacons fotografische Vorlagen
Katharina Günther, art historian, Weimar
In German
Ticket included in the entrance fee

The lecture series takes place in cooperation with the Chair of Art History at the University of Siegen and the Institute of Art History at University of Cologne.

Guided Tours

SUN. 23.10. 4pm
Miriam Cahn. MEINEJUDEN
Last exhibition tour with curator and director Thomas Thiel
In German
Ticket included in the entrance fee

Public exhibition tours every Thursday at 12.30 pm and every Sunday at 4 pm.

Individual special tours for groups and individuals can be booked by phone (T +49 271 40577 10) or email (info@mgksiegen.de).

You can find more public tours and events for kids, teens and adults accompanying the exhibition at <https://www.mgksiegen.de/en/kalender/>.

Current COVID-prevention laws apply.

Press Images

You can find the press images in the download section of the museum website <https://www.mgksiegen.de/en/presse/>.

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