

# THE 80S

## Figurative painting in the FRG



**22 JULY TO 18 OCTOBER 2015**

The exhibition "The 80s. Figurative painting in the FRG" illuminated the novel, irritating and extremely dynamic figurative painting, which developed almost simultaneously in the 1980s, especially in the centers of Berlin, Hamburg and the Rhineland. On display were works by Ina Barfuss, Werner Büttner, Walter Dahn, Jiří Georg Dokoupil, Rainer Fetting, Georg Herold, Martin Kippenberger, Helmut Middendorf, Christa Näher, Albert Oehlen, Salomé and Andreas Schulze.

The Städel Museum presented 90 pictures of 27 artists in a comprehensive exhibition on figurative painting in the FRG, which arose around 1980 in the Berlin "Galerie am Moritzplatz", in the Cologne studio community "Mülheimer Freiheit", in Düsseldorf and Hamburg and within a very short time internationally. Out of quite different motivations emerged images which sought the examination of the painters' tradition, the post-war veterans and their immediate contemporaneity: Virtuositic "Bad Painting" met classical genre painting or staged dilettanteism. Open, cracked, deliberately irritating compositions and sense structures became the common denominator of heterogeneous image production.

More than thirty years later, the Frankfurter Schau was a critical revision of this painting, which, in addition to the variety of styles and themes, also reveals the art-historical significance of a complex phenomenon, which has long been seen through the glasses of discourses and stereotypes.

**List of artists:** Hans Peter Adamski, Peter Angermann, Elvira Bach, Ina Barfuss, Peter Bommels, Werner Büttner, Luciano Castelli, Walter Dahn, Jiří Georg Dokoupil, Rainer Fetting, GL Gabriel, Georg Herold, Gerard Kever, Jan Knap, Milan Kunc, Martin Kippenberger, Helmut Middendorf, Christa Näher, Gerhard Naschberger, Albert Oehlen, Markus Oehlen, Salomé, Andreas Schulze, Bettina Semmer, Volker Tannert, Thomas Wachweger and Bernd Zimmer

**CURATORS** Dr. Martin Engler, collection director Contemporary art; Franziska Leuthäuser, research associate of the Department of Contemporary Art

**PROMOTION DRUCH** Deutsche Bank AG

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