

About Thomas Arnolds

Thomas Arnolds (b. 1975, Geilenkirchen, Germany) is a Cologne-based artist whose practice encompasses painting, installation, and collaborative projects. Rooted in rigorous explorations of gesture, repetition, and formal systems, Arnolds' work investigates the interplay between structure and improvisation, producing works that are at once methodical and open-ended.

Arnolds trained as a stonemason and sculptor (1994–1997) before studying at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig under Professor Walter Dahn (2001–2006). His formation was marked by early recognition, including a church award from the Diocese of Aachen (1997–1999). In 2006, he co-founded the artist collective F.Y.W. with Tim Berresheim and Christian Collmer, establishing a collaborative framework that expanded his practice into curatorial and publishing activities.

His work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions across Europe, the United States, and beyond, with solo presentations at institutions such as the Leopold-Hoesch-Museum, Düren (2018), Künstlerverein Malkasten, Düsseldorf (2019), and Kunstverein Reutlingen (2014). He has shown regularly with galleries including Jahn und Jahn (Munich), Nosbaum Reding (Luxembourg and Brussels), Klemm's (Berlin), and Galerie Hammelehle und Ahrens (Cologne). Group exhibitions have placed his practice alongside figures such as Imi Knoebel and André Butzer, including presentations at the Friedrichs Foundation, Weidingen (2022), Aïshti Foundation, Beirut (2018), and Kunstmuseum Bonn (2010, 2017).

Arnolds' works are held in public and private collections across Germany and Europe. He has been awarded residencies and fellowships that supported the development of his practice, while his long-term collaborative ethos has positioned him as a distinctive figure in contemporary German painting. His practice remains rooted in Cologne, where he continues to expand the painterly field through a balance of discipline, material curiosity, and conceptual rigor.



Thomas Arnolds



Thomas Arnolds. MARB7(GN2), 2019

CV

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2025

Painting will need to do all sorts of crazy wonderful things, artothek, Cologne, DE

2023

Sarah Loses Out Again (You Ought to be in Pictures), Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne, DE

2022

Run (Modern Cold), ak contemporary, Cologne, DE

RUN (DOWNHILL), Jahn und Jahn, Munich, DE

2021

RUN (light), Nosbaum Reding Bruxelles, Brussels, BE

RUN (Disegno und Farbe), Klemm's, Berlin, DE

2019

You'll Ever Walk Alone (dorisch), Künstlerverein Malkasten, Düsseldorf, DE

AUGMENTED BONSAI (Malerei), Nosbaum Reding, Luxembourg, LU

Ort und Hall, Jahn und Jahn, Munich, DE

CLIMB THE HORSE AND RUN, with Wolfgang Voegelé, Magazine Lotus, Copenhagen, DK

2018

Thomas Arnolds. Duktusinduziert, Leopold-Hoesch-Museum, Düren, DE

Thomas Arnolds. Double Sunday (red or blue), AK-Raum, Cologne, DE

RUN, Galerie Hammelehle und Ahrens, Cologne, DE

High and Safe, Kunstverein Heppenheim, Heppenheim, DE

2016

MARB7, Galerie Hammelehle und Ahrens, Cologne, DE

Thomas Arnolds, Galerie Jahn Baaderstrasse, Munich, DE

2014

Thomas Arnolds, Kunstverein Reutlingen, DE

2010

Papier / Öl / Lift, Gloria, Berlin, DE

2009

Spazieren (International), Aschenbach & Hofland Galleries, Amsterdam, NL

Boddy und Snake: Wonderful Life, with Tim Berresheim, Jagla, Cologne, DE

2007

Klinkerexpressionismus, Galerie Hammelehle und Ahrens, Cologne, DE

Ich mach klar Schiff, F.Y.W., Cologne, DE

CV

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023

Never Enough, Schönewald, Düsseldorf, DE

Gibt es den Mond, wenn keiner hinsieht?, Thomas Rehbein Galerie, Cologne, DE

die Welt ist noch auf einen Abend mein, Galeria Ehrhardt Florez, Madrid, ES

2022

Thomas Arnolds | Imi Knoebel, Friedrichs Foundation, Weidingen, DE

The Most Dangerous Game, SPURS Gallery, Beijing, CN

About Painting II, Galerie Rolando Anselmi, Rome, IT

2019

Some Trees, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, US

Cinque Stagioni, Kunsthau Essen, DE

2018

Trance, Aïshti Foundation, Beirut, LB

Geheimnis der Dinge. Malstücke, Beck & Eggeling International Fine Art, Düsseldorf, DE

2017

Re-vision, Kunstmuseum Bonn, DE

Back to the shack, Meliksetian – Briggs, Los Angeles, US

2014

Wo ist hier #1: Malerei und Gegenwart, Kunstverein Reutlingen, DE

In der Wohnung – Alte Fabrik, Gebert Stiftung für Kultur, Rapperswil, CH

2010

Der Westen leuchtet, Kunstmuseum Bonn, DE

2009

De Nieuwste Collectie, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, NL

2008

My Generation, Patrick Painter Inc. / Peres Projects / Reiner Opoku, Cologne, DE

2007

Institut für zeitgenössische Beobachtung, Vienna, AT