

THK GALLERY

THOMAS WACHHOLZ | BIO & CV

German artist Thomas Wachholz (b.1984) explores meanings and associations in the formal characteristics of mundane objects. Using the visual style and ideological foundations of Pop Art, Wachholz creates paintings that appropriate elements of matchboxes and matchbooks. Gathered over the years in hotels, restaurants, gas stations, cinemas and bars, the matchboxes act as ciphers, shifting the artist's perception from the object to a specific place and time.

Wachholz's formal abstractions are imbued with coded meanings. By removing information on the original shape and composition of a matchbox, he frees the imagery from its original context, elevating everyday objects to the realm of symbol. He creates a dense visual net of formal traces and personal memories, structured through opaque colour fields, where iconic symbols like stars or clouds and grids are contoured by geometric outlines. With their bright colours and clean lines, his conceptually playful paintings reveal ironic connections between both form and function, and sign and signified.

Wachholz's paintings reveal matchboxes and matchbooks as triggers of past moments and places. Engaging with the realm of abstraction, Wachholz frees found images from their objecthood, allowing elements and shapes to take on new life fired by our memories, art historical sources, as well as their prior functional heritage. Like a glimpse through the looking glass, his abstract works allow us to enter a world of multiplied meanings, shape shifting with the memories and emotions of the viewer.

Wachholz studied under Katharina Grosse and Marcel Odenbach at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany. He has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions at institutions and galleries worldwide. His work has further been exhibited at Art Basel Miami Beach (2014, 2015) and Art Basel (2021) .

Solo exhibitions include *Soft Painting*, Galeris Lange + Pult, Zurich (2018); *Books and Boxes*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles (2019); *CAPRI*, Kunstverein Heppenheim, Germany, (2019); and *Allumettes Amorphes*, Galerie Ruttkowski;68, Paris, (2020).

In February 2022, THK Gallery will present the first solo exhibition of Wachholz in Africa.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022

- THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS (CONTINUED)

2020

- *Alumettes Amorphes*, Ruttkowski;68, Paris, France

2019

- *CAPRI*, Kunstverein Heppenheim, Heppenheim, Germany
- *Books and Boxes*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2018

- *Soft Painting*, galerie lange + pult, Zurich, Switzerland

2017

- *LIGHT*, Natalia Hug, Cologne, Germany
- *Fire Walk with Me*, Ung5, Cologne, Germany

2016

- *Strike Gently*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2015

- *Whiteout*, Nymphius Projekte, Berlin, Germany

2014

- *Alcohol Works*, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, USA
- *Reibfläche*, RaebervonStenglin, Zurich, Switzerland

2013

- *Alkoholarbeiten*, An der Schanz, Cologne, Germany

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021

- *Mixed Pickles 10*, Michael Horbach Foundation, Cologne, Germany
- *Let's Get Lit*, T. Wachholz & D. Renggli, Wentrup Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- *This Must Be The Place*, Villa Schöningen, Postdam, Germany
- *Wentrup am Feenteich*, Wentrup Gallery, Hamburg, Germany
- *CHA CHA CHA*, T. Wachholz & D. Renggli, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- *Surfaces*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- *Inaugural Exhibition*, Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

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GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTINUED)

2020

- *NAK Benefiz Auktion*, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany
- *Hybrids*, CFHILL Art Space, Stockholm, Sweden
- *Mixed Pickles 8*, Wilhelm Hallen, Berlin, Germany
- *Five Year Anniversary Show*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- *Mixed Pickles 7*, Galerie Ruttkowski 68, Cologne, Germany
- *Paper (and one wood)*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- *Alles Notwendige*, Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany

2019

- *The Abstract Cabinet*, Eduardo Secci Contemporary, Florence
- *Wer kann, der soll*, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany
- *Rämistrasse 27*, Galerie Lange + Pult, Zurich, Switzerland
- *Neighbours 8*, Riot, Ghent, Belgium

2018

- *NAK Benefiz Auktion*, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany
- *Mixed Pickles 4*, Michael Horbach Foundation, Cologne, Germany
- *Burnt it!*, Krefelder Kunstverein, Krefeld, Germany
- *Ansichtssache. Wie Bilder Werden*, Kunstraum Alexander Bürkle, Freiburg, Germany
- *Ausstellung zur Benefizauktion zu Gunsten der Kunsthochschule für Medien*, Kunsthaus Lempertz, Munich, Germany
- *Neighbours 7*, Jan Colle Gallery, Ghent, Belgium
- *YOUTOO*, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany

2017

- *Jahresgaben 2017*, K Inischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
- *Unpacking: The Marciano Collection*, Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, USA
- *OG OPEN*, K Inischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany
- *Close Up: The ROCCA Foundation Dresden / Berlin*, K Galerie Gebr. Lehmann, Dresden, Germany
- *WAHNSINN*, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany
- *Marcel Breuer*, Paul Czerlitzki, Jana Schröder, Thomas Wachholz, Natalia Hug, Cologne, Germany

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GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTINUED)

2016

- *Vertical I*, Michael Horbach Foundation, Cologne, Germany
- *Running Time*, Marres Currents #4, Maastricht, Netherlands
- *NAK Benefizauktion*, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany
- *The Snoring Princess*, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany
- *hues, tints, tones*, Soho House West Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA

2015

- *Artists against Aids*, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany
- *Rundblick 2015*, Kunstverein Kirschenpflücker, Cologne, Germany
- *Against Automatism*, fused space, San Francisco, USA
- *First Flush*, Bayer Kulturhaus, Leverkusen, Germany
- *20 Jahre Kunstgruppe*, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany
- *5 Years ReabervonStenglin*, Reaber von Stenglin, Zurich, Switzerland

2014

- *TAU, KIT – Kunst im Tunnel*, Düsseldorf, Germany
- *Not Abstraction*, Yves Klein Archive, Paris, France
- *Backward / Forward*, New Galerie, Paris, France
- *daseinsamegenie...*, Baustelle Schaustelle, Essen, Germany
- *On @ On @ On*, kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany
- *Shortcuts, Videos in Art*, Chu Galerie, Cologne, Germany

2013

- *abstract on paper*, Galerie Chaplini, Cologne, Germany
- *17/13*, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany

2012

- *Full House*, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany

AWARDS

2016

- Atelierstipendium Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany