Johannes Kahrs
Biography

Johannes Kahrs was born in Bremen, Germany, in 1965. He lives and works in Berlin.

Perception's analysis and images' manipulation are at the core of Johannes Kahrs' reflection. The subjects of the German author's artworks present themselves in all their human indecipherability, shaken by pressures and malaise: the monstrous yet familiar realis of Kahrs' paintings provokes entangled empathy and reveals the hidden and violent side of humanity.Starting from images collected from magazines, the internet, newspapers, advertisements, amateur and feature films, but also from photographs taken by himself, Johannes Kahrs releases the image from its original context, depicting fragmented and isolated scenes and escaping a coherent narrative. By cutting the image, enlarging its details and disconnecting it from its original embedded context, the artist emphasizes the symbolic meaning of the scene to reveal its deeper and mysterious contents.With his work, Johannes Kahrs challenges our beliefs and our ability to observe what surrounds us. Through his pictorial practice, the artist fights the hectic and superficial representation of human body in times of mass communication and outof-control sharing. Johannes Kahrs questions reality by revealing its physicality, perturbation and its violent sensuality.

Work by the artist is held in major museum collections such as: Centre Pompidou, Paris; MOCA, Los Angeles; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; Museu Serralves, Porto; SFMoMA, San Francisco; UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; MoMA, New York and S.M.A.K., Ghent.

Solo exhibitions

2024

2024 - Port renversé, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2023

2023 - As I descended into impassible waters I no longer felt guided by the ferrymen, Zeno X Gallery Antwerp Borgerhout, Antwerp, B

2020

2020 - Johannes Kahrs, Hall Art Foundation, Schloss Derneburg Museum, Derneburg, D
2020 - Sleep, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

2018

2018 - Hell I Am, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2017

2017 - Embrace, Luhring Augustine, New York, US

2016

2016 - Then, maybe, the explosion of a star, FRAC Île-de-France, Paris, F
2016 - Early this mornin', ooh, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2014

2014 - Tropical Nights, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nürnberg, D. Catalogue

2014 - Tropical Nights, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2013

2013 - Johannes Kahrs, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden, D

2012

2012 - Johannes Kahrs, Kunsthaus Centre d'Art Pasquart, Biel, CH

2011

2011 - Johannes Kahrs, Luhring Augustine, New York, US

2010

2010 - Johannes Kahrs, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2009

2009 - I can't think of the finish, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2008

2008 - Eyes on his body, Luhring Augustine, New York, US

2007

2007 - Men with music, GAMeC, Bergamo, I

2006

2006 - Lonely long meaningless way home, Parasol Unit foundation for contemporary art, London, UK
2006 - Ein ganz fremder Nackter, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2004

2004 - Dunkles Zimmer, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2003

2003 - Down 'n Out, Zeno X Storage, Antwerp, B. Catalogue

2002

2002 - Down 'n Out, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, B
2002 - Questions, Studio Massimo De Carlo, Milan, I
2002 - The Drunken Boat, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, F

2001

2001 - A-h, S.M.A.K, Ghent, B
2001 - A-h, FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, F. Catalogue
2001 - A-h, Kunstverein München, München, D

2000

2000 - Night in Sexyland, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B
2000 - Last virgin on the left, Galerie Signal, Malmö, SE
2000 - Shot and Painted, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D
2000 - La révolution Permanente, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, F

1999

1999 - Statement, Art 29 Basel, presented by Galerie Almine Rech, Basel, CH

1998

1998 - Why don't you paint my portrait, Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen, D. Catalogue
1998 - Double Stage - 6 Seconds Popular Violence, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D
1998 - A-h, Galerie Almine Reich, Paris, F
1998 - Schwarzes Loch/Weisse Wand, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D

1997

1997 - 93´09´´- Vorzimmer / 4 Klacks, Vereniging Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, Ghent, B

1997 - hole, Galerie Arndt & Partner, Berlin, D
1997 - Thomson Homestead, Slater, Misouri, Galerie Transit, Leuven, B

1995

1995 - Bild und Malerei, Galerie Wohnmaschine, Berlin, D

1994

1994 - Schlag doch, DAAD Galerie, Berlin, D. Catalogue

1993

1993 - Keine Falsche Bewegung, Galerie Mutzek, Berlin, D

Group exhibitions

2022

2022 - Amour, Gloire et Beauté, TheMerode, Brussels, B
2022 - Stories of Paper, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2022 - 40 Years Zeno X Gallery - the nineties, Zeno X Gallery Antwerp South, Antwerp, B
2022 - Portrait, Leienpaleis, Antwerp, B

2021

2021 - Bodywork: Discomfort and Existence, MASSIMODECARLO, Milano, I
2021 - Peinture: Obsolescence déprogrammée, Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix, Les Sables d'Olonne, F

2019

2019 - Trouble in Paradise. Collection Rattan Chadha, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, NL
2019 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo, USA
2019 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, D
2019 - Inside - Out. Constructions Of The Self, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, D
2019 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

2018

2018 - Michael Jackson: On The Wall, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK. Catalogue
2018 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, Grand Palais, Paris, F
2018 - Works on Paper I, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2017

2017 - The Truth of Uncertainty: Moving Image Works from the Hall Collection, Schloss Derneburg, Derneburg, D

2016

2016 - In the Cage of Freedom, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, D
2016 - Retour au Meilleur des Mondes, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F
2016 - Private Exposure, Collectors Room, Berlin, D

2015

2015 - La vie moderne, 13th Lyon Biennale, Lyon, F
2015 - Prima Facie: Works from the Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, The Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery, Tel Aviv, IL
2015 - I am a Lie and I am Gold, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, USA
2015 - 13th Lyon Biennial: La Vie Moderne, MAC, Lyon, F
2015 - Sense Uncertainty. A Private Collection, Kunsthaus Züric, Zürich, CH
2015 - Raoul De Keyser, Johannes Kahrs, Mark Manders, Mircea Suciu, Patrick Van Caeckenbergh, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B
2015 - Cannibalism? On Appropriation in Art, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, PL
2015 - Works on Paper II, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2014

2014 - Donkere kamers, Over melancholie en depressie, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent, B
2014 - Kees Goudwaard, Kim Jones, Johannes Kahrs, Jenny Scobel, Jack Whitten, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2014 - Mediations Biennale 2014, National Museum Poznan, Poznan, PL

2013

2013 - Opening New Space, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2012

2012 - Geteilt/ ungeteilt. Kunst in Deutschland 1945 bis 2010, Ausstellung der Galerie Neue Meister, Dresden, D
2012 - Fruits de la passion, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, F
2012 - Schach Matt, Märkisches Museum, Witten, D

2011

2011 - abc, about painting, Station-Berlin , Berlin, D

2010

2010 - Objetos Desclasificados, Caixa Forum, Barcelona, E
2010 - Celebration. Ouverture nouvel espace, Frac Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F

2009

2009 - Private Universes, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, USA
2009 - Between Art and Life. The contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection, SFMOMA, San Francisco, USA
2009 - Defiance & Melancholy. German Painting from the Dresden Albertinum/ galerie Neue Meister., Helsinki City Art Museum, Helsinki, FIN
2009 - Re-Imagining Asia, The New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK

2008

2008 - Re-Imagining Asia, House of World Cultures, Berlin, D
2008 - Colección de Arte Contemporáneo de la Fundación la Caixa, Caixaforum, Madrid, E
2008 - western moderne, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F
2008 - The Painting of Modern Life, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, I

2007

2007 - The Painting of Modern Life, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
2007 - De Cirkel, Roger Raveelmuseum, Machelen-Zulte, B
2007 - Visit(e): Contemporary art in Germany, Bozar, Brussels, B
2007 - Works on paper, Zeno X Gallery & Zeno X Storage, Antwerp, B

2006

2006 - Vous êtes ici, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F
2006 - Parcours video-installatie, Beursschouwburg, Brussels, B
2006 - Constructing Reality: New Berlin, Bass Museum of Art, Miami, USA
2006 - 25 years Zeno X Gallery, Zeno X Gallery & Zeno X Storage, Antwerp, B
2006 - Leeftijdgenoten, Roger Raveelmuseum, Machelen-aan-de-Leie, B
2006 - flutter, The Approach, London, UK
2006 - Constructing Reality, Phoenix Art Museum, New Berlin, D
2006 - Johannes Kahrs, Magnus von Plessen, Eberhard Havekost und Wilhelm Sasnal, Colecçao Fundaçao de Serralves , Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, PT
2006 - Le Mouvement des Images, Centre Pompidou, Paris, F
2006 - La mirade de l'artista: la proposta de Juan Uslé, Fundacio La Caixa, Barcelona, E

2005

2005 - Zur Vorstellung des Terrors: Die RAF - Ausstellung, Kunst-Werke, Berlin, D
2005 - Young artists (selected by), l, , B, Witte Zaal, Ghent, B

2004

2004 - Drafting Deceit, Apexart, New York, USA
2004 - 45th October Salon, Continental Breakfast, Belgrade, RUS
2004 - Manifesta 5, European Biennale of Contemporary Art, San Sebastian, E
2004 - Contre - Images, Carré d'Art, Nîmes, F
2004 - Berlin-Moskau / Moskau-Berlin 1950-2000, Staatliche Tretjakov Galerie, Moscow, RUS

2004 - Zie Tekening, Project Voorkamer, Stedelijk Museum Wuyts-Van Campen & Baron Caroly, Lier, B
2004 - Was Malerei heute ist, Stiftung Opelvillen, Rüsselheim, D

2003

2003 - Fuori Uso 03, Fuori Uso Cocktail Bar, Pescara, I
2003 - Plastik, Plüsh und Politik - Reflexe der 70er Jahre in der Gegenwartskunst, Städtische Galerie Nordhorn, Nordhorn, D
2003 - Berlin-Moskau / Moskau-Berlin 1950-2000, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, D
2003 - Kiss and Ride, Z33 / Begijnhof, Hasselt, B
2003 - Warum! Bilder diesseits und jenseits des Menschen, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, D
2003 - A Mains Nues, FRAC Haute-Normandie, F
2003 - Deutschemalereizweitausenddrei, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, D
2003 - Great Theater of the World, Taipei Biennial, Taipei, RC

2002

2002 - Cardinales, MARCO - Museo de Arte Contemporànea de Vigo, Vigo, E
2002 - Questions, Studio Massimo De Carlo, Milan, I
2002 - Without Consent, CAN - Centre d'art de Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, CH

2001

2001 - In/Site/Out, Apex, New York, USA
2001 - Double - Trouble, Borusan Kültur ve Sanat, Instanbul, TR
2001 - Moving Pictures. Photography and Film in Contemporary Art, Villa Merkel / Bahnwärterhaus, Esslingen, D
2001 - Screen, Psychiatrisch Centrum Sleidinge, Sleidinge, B
2001 - Squatters, Museo de Art Contemporain de Serralves, Porto, P

2000

2000 - Indoor, S.M.A.K., Ghent, B
2000 - Children of Berlin, Museum Folkwang, Essen, D
2000 - Dorothea von Stetten Kunstprize, Kunstmuseum Bonn, D
2000 - Kunstbank Berlin, Berlin, D

1999

1999 - Face à l'Autre, FRAC Haute-Normandie, F
1999 - The Children of Berlin, PS 1, New York, USA
1999 - Ainsi de suite 3, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Sète, F
1999 - Rue Louise Weiss, Centre d'Art contemporain, Meymac, F
1999 - Indoor, Musée d'Art Contemporain , Lyon, F
1999 - Art Club Berlin, AU Base, New York, USA
1999 - Independance day, Kunst-Werke e.V., Berlin, D
1999 - Drawings, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B
1999 - EV + A, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick, IRL

1998

1998 - Biennale de Berlin, Berlin, D
1998 - The Cinema Project, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, D
1998 - Indoor, Centro civico per l'Arte Contemporanea, Serre di Rapolano, I
1998 - Le présent du Futur, FRAC Languedoc-Rousillon, Montpellier, F
1998 - Kamikaze, Marstall, Berlin, D

1997

1997 - Heaven - Private View, P.S.1, New York, USA
1997 - Selection Fall 1997, Drawing Center, New York, USA
1997 - Korrespondenzen, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
1997 - Fenêtre sur cour, Galerie Almine Reich, Paris, F

1996

1996 - The Aggression of Beauty, Galerie Arndt & Partner, Berlin, D
1996 - Nach Weimar, Kunstsammlungen zu Weimar, Weimar, D
1996 - Laboratorium Berlin - Moscow, Contemporary Art Center, Moscow, RUS

1995

1995 - Club Berlin, Biennale XLV, Venice, I
1995 - Close Up, Städtische Galerie, Bremen, D
1995 - Filmcuts, Galerie Neugerriemschneider, Berlin, D
1995 - Drawings, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich, CH

1994

1994 - Postconceptual Painting, Kunstwerke, Berlin, D
1994 - A Personal Choice, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D

1990

1990 - Geist und Körper, Deutsches Museum für Geschichte, Berlin, D

Bibliography

2021

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2020

"Massimo De Carlo opens a solo exhibition of works by the German artist Johannes Kahrs", *Artdaily*, November 2020.

2017

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2016

"Les flous portraits de Johannes Kahrs”", *Beaux Arts Magazine*, n. No. 384, July 2016, p. 116..
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Flamini, Fabiola.*Private Exposure - Works from the Olbricht Collection*, exhibition catalogue, . Berlin, Collectors Room / Stiftung Olbricht, 2016.
Goodrow, Gérard A..*Sammlung Broska*, exhibition catalogue, Birgit and Dieter Broska,, 2016.
Kahrs, Johannes. *Then, maybe, the explosion of a star*. 2016 Texts by Xavier Franceschi.
Lavrador, Judicael. "Des stars jetées en peinture/ Stars Dispensed with in Paint", *Liberation*, June 10 2016.
Moulene, Claire. "Grandeur et decadence", *Les Inrockuptibles*, May 18 2016, pp. 90-91.

2015

About Waves. Museumcultuur Strombeek/Gent, MER Paper Kunsthalle, 2015.
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2014

Johannes Kahrs: Tropical Nights, exhibition catalogue, Verlag für moderne Kunst Nürnberg, Nürnberg2014. Texts by Angela Lohrey, Ellen Seifermann.
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2013

"Heiliger St. Quentin!", *Monopol*, n. No. 2, February 2013, p. 48.

2012

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2011

"Johannes Kahrs", *January Biannual* , January 2011.
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Zolghadr, Tirdad. *Psychopomp Counsel*. Stichting Ateliers 63, 2011.

2010

Dresden - Illustriertes Bestandsverziechnis, exhibition catalogue, . Cologne, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König,, 2010.
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2009

Berlin 2000, exhibition catalogue, Pace Wildenstein, New York2009, pp. 80-83..
Johannes Kahrs, exhibition catalogue, , Ostfildren2009. Texts by Ralph Rugoff, Hatje Cantz.
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2008

"La inspiración fotográfica en la pintura", *Lapiz 27*, n. No. 242, April 2008, p. 22.
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2007

Johannes Kahrs: Men with Music, exhibition catalogue, GAMeC, Bergamo2007. Texts by Alessandro Rabottini.
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2006

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2005

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2004

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2003

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2002

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2001

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2000

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1999

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United States of America

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas
Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles
MoCA - CA Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, New York
SFMOMA - San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco