

# Johannes Kahrs

## Biografia

Johannes Kahrs è nato a Brema, in Germania, nel 1965. Vive e lavora a Berlino.

L'analisi della percezione e la manipolazione delle immagini sono al centro della riflessione di Johannes Kahrs. I soggetti delle opere dell'autore tedesco si presentano nella loro indecifrabilità umana, scossi da pressioni e malessere: il realismo mostruoso e al contempo familiare dei dipinti di Kahrs provoca un'empatia coinvolgente e rivela il lato nascosto e violento dell'umanità. Partendo da immagini raccolte da riviste, da siti web, giornali, pubblicità, film amatoriali e d'autore, ma anche dalle sue stesse fotografie, Johannes Kahrs libera l'immagine dal suo contesto originale, raffigurando scene frammentate ed isolate e sfuggendo a una narrazione coerente. Tagliando l'immagine, ingrandendone i dettagli e scolliegandola dal suo contesto originale, l'artista enfatizza il significato simbolico della scena per rivelarne i contenuti più profondi e misteriosi. Con il suo lavoro, Johannes Kahrs sfida le nostre convinzioni e la nostra capacità di osservare ciò che ci circonda. Attraverso la sua pratica pittorica, l'artista si oppone alla rappresentazione frenetica e superficiale del corpo umano in un'epoca di comunicazione di massa e di condivisione incontrollata. Johannes Kahrs mette in discussione la realtà rivelandone la fisicità, la pericolosità e la violenta sensualità.

Le opere dell'artista sono presenti nelle collezioni dei maggiori musei, tra cui: Centre Pompidou, Parigi; MOCA, Los Angeles; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; Museu Serralves, Porto; SFMoMA, San Francisco; UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; MoMA, New York e S.M.A.K., Ghent.

### Esposizioni personali

#### 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. Catalogo  
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. Catalogo

**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. Catalogo  
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. Catalogo  
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. Catalogo

**1993**

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

**Esposizioni collettive****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, Kunsthalle 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. Catalogo  
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 Zürich, 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, Colecção Fundação de Serralves , Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, PT  
2006 - Le Mouvement des Images, Centre Pompidou, Paris, F  
2006 - La mirada 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), I, , 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, Plüsch 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 - Deutschemalereizweitausend drei, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, D
- 2003 - Great Theater of the World, Taipei Biennial, Taipei, RC

## **2002**

- 2002 - Cardinales, MARCO - Museo de Arte Contemporánea 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 Kültür ve Sanat, Istanbul, 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 Kunstrprize, 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 Neugericke Schneider, 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

Tenaglia, Francesco. "Dicomfort and Existance, mutevole dedalo di corpi e arte", *il Foglio*, April 2021.

## 2020

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

## 2017

*Artspeak NYC*, March 22 2017.

Gebremedhin, Thomas. ""Q & A with Artist Johannes Kahrs on His Evocative New Solo Exhibition", *The Wall Street Journal*, March 17 2017.

## 2016

"Les flous portraits de Johannes Kahrs""", *Beaux Arts Magazine*, n. No. 384, July 2016, p. 116..

Beil, Ralf. "Holger Broeker and Christiane Heuwinkel" in *Im Käfig Der Freiheit*. 2016.

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.

Basciano, Oliver. "13th Lyon Biennale: La vie moderne", *Art Review* 67, n. No. 9, December 2015, p. 110.

Karabelnik, Marianne. *Sinnliche Ungewissheit - Eine private Sammlung*. Kehrer Verlag, 2015.

Mullins, Charlotte. *Picturing People - The New State of Art*, exhibition catalogue, . London, Thames and Hudson, 2015.

Raspail, Thierry, Ralph Rugoff e Marc Chauveau. *13e Biennale de Lyon*, exhibition catalogue, . Dijon, Les Presses du réel, 2015.

## 2014

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

Allegaert, Patrick, Yoon Hee Lamot e Bart Marius. *Donkere Kamers*. Uitgeverij Hannibal, 2014.

Sarit, Shapira. *Babel - Works from the Igal Ahouvi Art Collection*, exhibition catalogue, The Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts, 2014.

## 2013

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

## 2012

Fluckiger, Gabriel. "Johannes Kahrs", *Kunst Bulletin*, n. No. 11, November 2012, pp. 78-79.  
Kahrs, Johannes. *Johannes Kahrs: Transcendence in Flesh and Blood*, exhibition catalogue, CentrePasquArt, Biel2012.

## 2011

"Johannes Kahrs", *January Biannual*, January 2011.  
Asfour, Nana. "Art: Johannes Kahrs", *Time Out New York*, n. Issue 832, 13-19, October 2011, p. 47..  
De Galbert, Antoine, Metzger Rainer e Damien Saussent. *Mémoires du Futur, la collection Olbricht*, exhibition catalogue, Fage éditions et la maison rouge, Paris2011.  
Hinrichsen, Jens. "Testfahrt für den Taxi Driver", *Monopol*, n. No. 8, August 2011, pp. 16-18..  
Sundt, Collin. "Rendering the Disappearance of Images", *Degree Critic*, Fall 2011.  
Zolghadr, Tirdad. *Psychopomp Counsel*. Stichting Ateliers 63, 2011.

## 2010

*Dresden - Illustriertes Bestandsverzeichnis*, exhibition catalogue, . Cologne, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König,, 2010.  
*Parasol unit - foundation for contemporary art on the occasion of its 5th anniversary 2005-2010*, exhibition catalogue, . London, Parasol Unit, 2010.  
Kahrs, Johannes. "Alte Meister, Von Neuen Geliebt", *Monopol*, June 2010, p. 28.  
Schwartzman, Allan. *Luhring Augustine - Twenty Five Years - 1985-2010*. New York, Luhring Augustine, 2010.

## 2009

*Berlin 2000*, exhibition catalogue, Pace Wildenstein, New York2009, pp. 80-83..  
*Johannes Kahrs*, exhibition catalogue, , Ostfildren2009. Texts by Ralph Rugoff, Hatje Cantz.  
Bärnthaler, Thomas, Duke Franz of Bavaria HRH e Patrizia Dander. *Commedia dell'Arte - Couture Edition*, 2009.  
Godfrey, Tony. *Painting Today*, 2009.  
Huitorel, Jean-Marc. *La collection du Frac des Pays de la Loire 1993 - 2002*, exhibition catalogue, Le Frac des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou2009.  
Rattemeyer, Christian, Glenn D. Lowry e Brian Scholis. *The Judith Rothschild Foundation Contemporary Drawings Collection - Catalogue Raisonné*, exhibition catalogue, The Museum of Modern Art, New York2009.

## 2008

"La inspiración fotográfica en la pintura", *Lapiz* 27, n. No. 242, April 2008, p. 22.  
*Germania: New Art from Germany*. London, Jonathan Cape, 2008.  
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Bagatavicius, Christina. "The Painting of Modern Life", *C Magazine*, n. No. 97, Spring 2008, p. 41.  
Borcherdt, Gesine, Amélie Von Heydebreck e Barbara Gärtner. *Stations - 100 meisterwerke zeitgenössischer kunst*. Cologne, Dumont - Monopol, 2008.  
Diez, Renato. "Pittori della vita moderna", *Arte*, n. No. 415, 2008, pp. 96-102.  
Merali, Shaheen. *Re-imagining Asia: A Thousand Years of Separation*, 2008.  
Seban, Alain, Alfred Pacquement e Agnès De la Beaumelle.. *Collection Art Graphique*, exhibition catalogue, Centre Pompidou - Musée national d'art moderne,, Paris2008.  
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## 2007

*Johannes Kahrs: Men with Music*, exhibition catalogue, GAMeC, Bergamo2007. Texts by Alessandro Rabottini.  
Affronti, Fabrizio. "Chi ha paura dell'Arte contemporanea?" in *La Casana*. Genoa, 2007, p. 41..  
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- Kerr, Merrily. "Portraits", *Time Out New York*, November 8-14 2007, p. 69..
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## 2006

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## 2005

- Checkpoint Charley: A project of the 4th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art*, exhibition catalogue, Biennial for Contemporary Art, Berlin2005.
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## 2004

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## 2003

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# Public Collections

## **Belgium**

Galerie Transit, Mechelen  
S.M.A.K. - Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent

## **France**

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris  
FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand  
FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou  
FRAC Île-de-France, Paris  
FRAC Picardie, Amiens

## **Germany**

Galerie Neue Meister, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden  
Hall Art Foundation, Derneburg  
Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart Berlin, Berlin  
Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg  
Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin

## **Israel**

Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, Tel Aviv

## **Norway**

Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker

## **Portugal**

Fundaçao de Serralves, Porto

## **Spain**

Contemporary Art Fundacio 'la Caixa', Barcelona

## **United Kingdom**

The Saatchi Collection, London

## **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