

STEFFEN KERN

B. 1988, Munich

Steffen Kern works with pencil and charcoal on paper in a meticulous method that elevates a conventional medium to a contemporary style. Creating works in both vivid color and black and white, the artist's style is uniquely marked by luminous contrasts and a mastery of light and shadow. As if drawing in a dark room, Kern experiments with the visual elements of blooming, depth of field, distortion and shadow caused by direct light. The effect is powerful and striking, harkening back to old masters while simultaneously feeling markedly current.

Kern is highly influenced by the principles of photography, and he applies various photographic aesthetics to his works, but the subjects of his drawings are constructed without using photographic or real-life references. Instead, the artist searches for images in his mind that appear to be part of our collective pictorial memory. The images are familiar and yet vaguely uncanny, falling somewhere between film stills and a universal subconscious archive. Within the works one can trace themes from pop culture, film and domestic life. Whether portrayed with bold, saturated colors or starkly monochromatic, the works are refined, captivating and deeply memorable.

Education

2010-2017 Studied with Karin Kneffel at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich
2015-2016 Studied with Daniel Richter at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
2017 Meisterschüler
2018 Diploma

Public Collections

POORT – Visser Collection
LAM Museum Lisse
Secrid Collection, Netherlands
ING Global Art Collection
Aegon Art Collection
Blue Knowledge Art Collection
Münchner Bank Collection

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 Light cuts through darkness but not through fog / Rutger Brandt Gallery / Amsterdam
- 2021 Drawings from the Mental Archive / Evelyn Drewes Galerie / Hamburg
EXT nuit / Galerie Heimat / Frankreich
- 2020 Drawings from the Mental Archive / Rutger Brandt Gallery / Amsterdam
- 2019 Machine between you and me / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich
Scopophilia / Eichenmüllerhaus / Lemgo
- 2017 Pas une image juste, juste une image. / Galerie Christian Pixis bei Marion Grcic-Ziersch / Munich
Who's Afraid of Black and White? / Kunstverein Erlangen
- 2016 Mise en Scène / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich

Group Exhibitions and Fairs

- 2024 NADA New York / Rutger Brandt Gallery / New York USA.
EXPO Chicago / Rutger Brandt Gallery / Chicago USA.
Dessins / Galerie Heimat / Arles France.
Bel Étage / Evelyn Drewes | Galerie / Berlin.
Bump in The Night / Oostherhof Projects X NightCafé Gallery / London UK.
- 2023 Münchner Meisterklasse X / Kunstforum Münchner Bank / Munich.
High Stakes / Lisa Boudet at rue Saint-Claude / Paris.
December Exhibition / Rutger Brandt Gallery / Amsterdam
RGB X Blueknowledge Art collection / BAC Art Space / Amsterdam.
Saisonstart / Halle 50 / Munich.
5 Jahre Später - Bender Schwinn Projekt Reloaded / Galerie Renate Bender / Munich.
- 2022 Last Call / Lohaus Sominsky / Munich
Jahresgaben / Kunstverein Munich.
Elb/Hängung / Villa Elbchaussee Hamburg / Galerie Evelyn Drewes
David Borgmann, Marina Schulze und Steffen Kern / Galerie Noah, Augsburg
The Pink Edition / Rutger Brandt Gallery / Amsterdam.
AS IF / Kunstverein Eislingen.
- 2021 Jahresgaben / Kunstverein Munich.
PAN Amsterdam / Rutger Brandt Gallery.
Scene or Scenery / Kunstverein Wolfenbüttel.
Cling together swing together / Galerie Noah / Augsburg.
Nacht / Halle 50 / Munich.
Art Rotterdam / Rutger Brandt Gallery.
- 2020 Untitled Art / Rutger Brandt Gallery.
Paper Positions the Exhibition / Karl und Faber / Munich
Big Art / Rutger Brandt Gallery / Zaanstad, the Netherlands
Carriers / Kunstarkaden Munich.
5 Years GiG / GiG Munich.
Smiley / Galerie Evelyn Drewes / Hamburg.
- 2019 Nachts allein im Atelier / Galerie Evelyn Drewes / Hamburg.
schwarz-weiße sacheverhalte kann es in der welt nicht geben / Stadtschloss Celle
Kollernow / Auktionshaus Koller / Munich.

- Ansichten und Ausblicke / Galerie Irrgang / Leipzig.
 In a silent way / Villa Böhm / Neustadt an der Weinstraße.
- 2018 Salon der Gegenwart / Hamburg
 Zimmer Frei / Hotel Mariandl / Munich.
 Positions Berlin / Addaux.
 On Repeat / GiG Munich.
 Werke der Gegenwart und Moderne / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich.
 Paper Positions Basel / Addaux.
 Debütantenausstellung / Munich Mixed Arts.
 Diplomausstellung / Academy of Fine Arts Munich.
- 2017 Finalisten des Märkischen Stipendiums / Städtische Galerie Lüdenscheid.
 EASY / GiG Munich.
 The proof is in the pudding / Galerie Noah / Augsburg.
 Hans-Purrmann-Preise der Stadt Speyer für Bildende Kunst / Kulturhof Flachsgasse.
- 2016 Perron Kunstpreis / Kunsthaus Frankenthal.
 Junge Kunst im Ruhrgebiet / Alte Spedition Gladbeck
 BENDER SCHWINN PROJEKT 1 / Galerie Renate Bender / Munich
 Rundgang 2016 / Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.
- 2015 Schwarzweiss / Short time Galerie Munich.
 Künstler der Galerie / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich.
 Verfremdung / Historische Schaltherhalle Starnberg.
 ****superior / Haus 10 Fürstenfeldbruck.
 Differenzen / Pasinger Fabrik / Munich.
 Nachher weiß man weniger / Kunstverein Landshut.
 Michael Deistler - Fauser, Grosz, Keil, Kern u.a. im Kabinett / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich.
 München zeichnet - das kleine Format / Kunstvermittlung Wäcker und Graupner.
- 2014 Hofer, Kern, Pagel / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich.
 Kunstsalon 2014 „Licht und Schatten“ / Egyptian Museum Munich
 Regina Baierl - Studioli, private Gehäuse, sowie Arbeiten von v.Harder, v.
 Hündeberg, Kern, Koehler und Pagel / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich.
 vier gewinnt / Kunstverein Ottobrunn.
- 2013 München zeichnet - Zeichnungen aus Münchner Ateliers / Galerie der Künstler (BBK München und Oberbayern)
 Claire Angelini, Afra Dopfer, Steffen Kern, Tilo Keil - Zeichnungen / Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich.
- 2012 Klasse Karin Kneffel / Academy of Fine Arts Munich.
- 2011 Ausstellung zum 18. Aichacher Kunstpreis / Kunstverein Aichach - Sandepot-Halle.
 Galerie Christian Pixis / Munich.

Grants and promotions

- 2022 Stiftung Kunstfonds promotion, Neustart Kultur
 2021 young art and new ways, promotion of the state of Bavaria
 2021 Elizabeth Grennshields Foundation Stipendium, Canada
 2020 – 2023 Studio support programme Munich
 2019 Cultural promotion of the LfA Förderbank Bayern

- 2018 Debutant promotion of the Bavarian State Ministry for Education and Cultural Affairs, Science and Art
- 2017 - 2020 Studio support programme Munich
- 2017 Theodor Pfizer Foundation Project grant
- 2017 Hans Purrmann promotion grant Speyer
- 2016 Perron promotion grant Frankenthal
- 2015 - 2016 DAAD-Scholarship Austria
- 2014 - 2017 scholarhip "stipendium der studienstiftung des deutschen volkes"

Press

<https://www.itsnicethat.com/articles/steffen-kern-discover-illustration-300123>

<https://galleryviewer.com/nl/tentoonstelling/4088/light-cuts-through-darkness-but-not-through-fog>

<https://galleryviewer.com/nl/tentoonstelling/1661/drawings-from-the-mental-archive>