

**Raphael Reift**

## Artist statement

My daily painting practice is an exploration of the subconscious. In the state of flow, I let everything go and happen. I try to rediscover childlike curiosity. It's almost an archaeology of childhood. I am fascinated by children's drawings and try to surprise myself with every drawing, with every painting. While I'm painting, I never know what will come out of it and what I'm doing. I work in layers. Sometimes it's preliminary drawings or geometric shapes, doodles, experiments with colors and different materials that arise intuitively and complement each other to form a whole. In terms of motifs, I always try to balance chaos and harmony. The expression between meticulous brushwork and a freer, more expressive design. A perfectionist urge forces me again and again to break out of my own limitations.

I am fascinated by Art Brut and Outsider Art. But also by Karel Appel, Joan Miró, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Pablo Picasso and Paul Klee. I find my titles through association. I stand in front of the finished picture and try to find a title that suits it. It can be a line from a poem I wrote myself or a pop culture reference. The pictures should speak for themselves even without a title. The titles open up an additional dimension of meaning.

Raphael Reift, born in Bern in 1987, is a self-taught artist and is listed and presented as such in the exhibition publication for the exhibition „Jenseits aller Regeln“ (2021) at the Kunstmuseum Thurgau. Reift received the Lions Club Central Switzerland Art Promotion Prize in 2022.

## Education

2007-2011 Bachelor of Theology

## Exhibitions

2024 Cantonale Berne Jura (group exhibition), La Nef, St. Ursanne  
2024 Best Friends Forever with Rohling Incognito (group exhibition), Progr, Bern  
2024 Cabinet of curiosities (group exhibition), Numas Igra, Basel  
2024 A letter from a friend (group exhibition), Bacio, Bern  
2024 Sihlquai253 (discourse and auction), Coincoin, Zürich  
2024 The Glint (group exhibition), Full Circle, Brüssel  
2024 Format K (inclusiv art project), alte Bibliothek, Münchenbuchsee  
2024 ETERNAL ELEMENTS (group exhibition), COMPLEX.156, Zürich  
2023 Kunstwerkstatt Waldau – BEST OF (group exhibition), Kulturpunkt, Bern  
2023 Best Friends Forever with Rohling Incognito (group exhibition), Outside Rohling, Bern  
2023 Ulk. Enttäuschte Reimerwartung (exhibition with reading), WABE, Basel  
2023 Format K (inclusive art project), alte Bibliothek, Münchenbuchsee  
2022 BFF x RI Merry Christmas (group exhibition), Outside Rohling, Bern  
2022 Lost Darlings (group exhibition), CRMI, Langenthal  
2022 Apokalyptische Phantasien (solo exhibition), Kulturpunkt, Bern  
2022 Ausstellung im Dachstöckli (solo exhibition), Galerie Mayhaus, Erlach  
2022 Aufgewühlt (group exhibition), Galerie im Kloster, SSBL, Emmen  
2022 take ART away 20/22 (group exhibition), ductus Kunstgalerie Café Bar, Luzern  
2021 BFF x RI Merry Christmas (group exhibition), Outside Rohling, Bern  
2021 Supermarkt by Galerie Mayhaus (group exhibition), Galerie Mayhaus, Erlach  
2021 Metaphernbalg im Bildersturm (solo exhibition), Hard-Cover Art Gallery, Zürich  
2021 Jenseits aller Regeln (group exhibition), Kunstmuseum Thurgau, Warth  
2020 Myceling (group exhibition), Künstlerhaus S11, Solothurn  
2020 Reise ins Ungewisse (solo exhibition), Gepard14, Bern

## Publications

2021 Kunstmuseum Thurgau (Hrsg.): Jenseits aller Regeln - Aussenseiterkunst, ein Phänomen. Scheidegger&Spiess 2021  
2020 MÄD BOOK LYRIK 5: Raphael Reift  
2014 MÄD BOOK 3: Gabrielle Alioth, Daniela Dill, Leonor Gnos, Roger Monnerat, Raphael Reift und Jürg Häusler

## Prizes

2022 Lions Club Central Switzerland Art Promotion Prize

## Collections

2015 Collection Rolf Röthlisberger



## With drooping wings/ Wheatfield with bloi crows

Sometimes I find it difficult to come up with a title for a painting. I often let myself be inspired by the motifs in the painting. On one hand there is an angel with drooping wings in the painting. He reminds me of the chorus 'With drooping wings' from the opera 'Dido and Aeneas' by Henry Purcell. In that opera, it is Cupids who lay roses on Dido's grave. The blue angel with drooping wings represents the mourning for a deceased person.

On the other hand, there are various figures in the picture painted in blue and yellow/gold. The contrast between blue and yellow/gold is very tense, and a striking example of this is Vincent van Gogh's painting 'Wheatfield with crows.' I have added the old French word 'bloi' to the title of his painting, which was used for the color combination of blue and yellow.

This reminds me of a joke I once heard in Basel: 'How far is the sky blue? Up to Alsace. Because there the sky is bloi.'"



With drooping wings/Wheatfield with bloi crows, 2025  
Mixed media on canvas  
100 x 120 cm





Heulen und Zähneknirschen, 2025  
Oil and acrylic marker on canvas  
100 x 80 cm



Ornitho-jurassische Grüße, 2024  
Mixed media on canvas  
70 x 50 cm





Lindwurm und Lenz, 2024  
Mixed media on canvas  
70 x 50 cm



Rotverschiebung in Richtung Wut, 2024  
Mixed media on canvas  
70 x 50 cm





Chromatischer Drache und Yurp, 2024  
Oil on canvas  
70 x 60 cm



Chromatisches Gewusel und Gewimmel, 2025  
Oil and acrylic marker on canvas  
100 x 120 cm





Gelber Griesgram und kobaltvioletter Kobold, 2025  
Oil and acrylic marker on canvas  
100 x 120 cm



Chromatische Reizüberflutung, 2025  
Mixed media on canvas  
100 x 120 cm





Laubbläserinferno, 2024  
Oil and acrylic paint on paper  
42 x 29,7 cm



Awkwardly dancing through life, 2024  
Oil and acrylic paint on paper  
42 x 29,7 cm





As a child I was forced to eat vegetables, 2024  
Mixed media on paper  
24 x 32 cm