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

Exhibtions

- 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

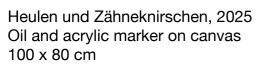
Sometimes I find it difficult to come up with a title for a painting. I often let myself be inspired by the motifs in the painting. On one hand there is an angel with drooping wings in the painting. He reminds me of the chorus ,With drooping wings' from the opera ,Dido and Aeneas' by Henry Purcell. In 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."









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



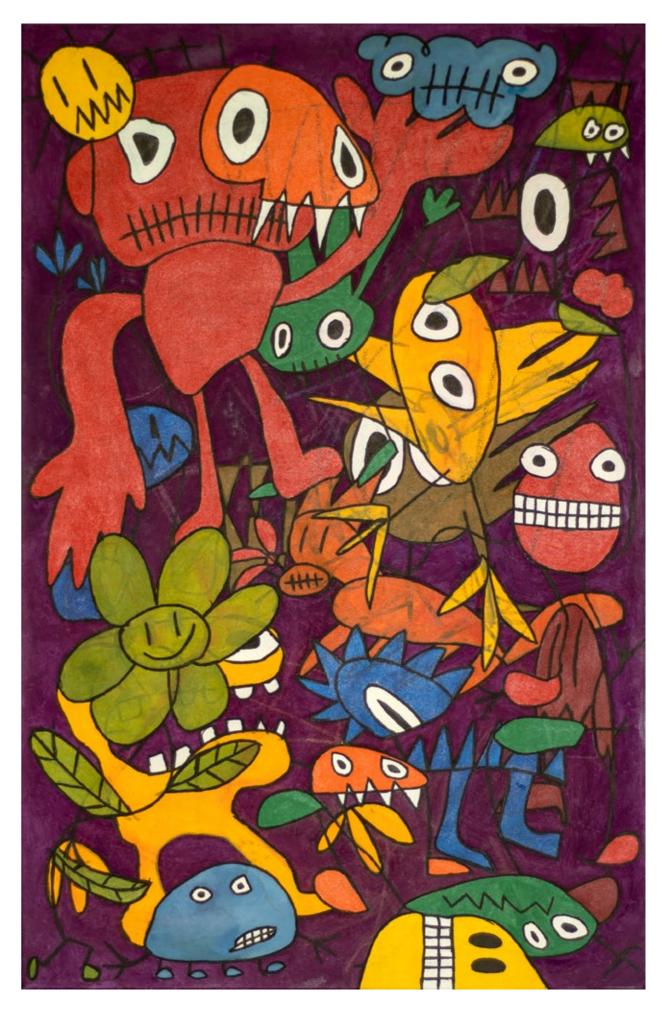
Lindwurm und Lenz, 2024 Mixed media on canvas 70 x 50 cm



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



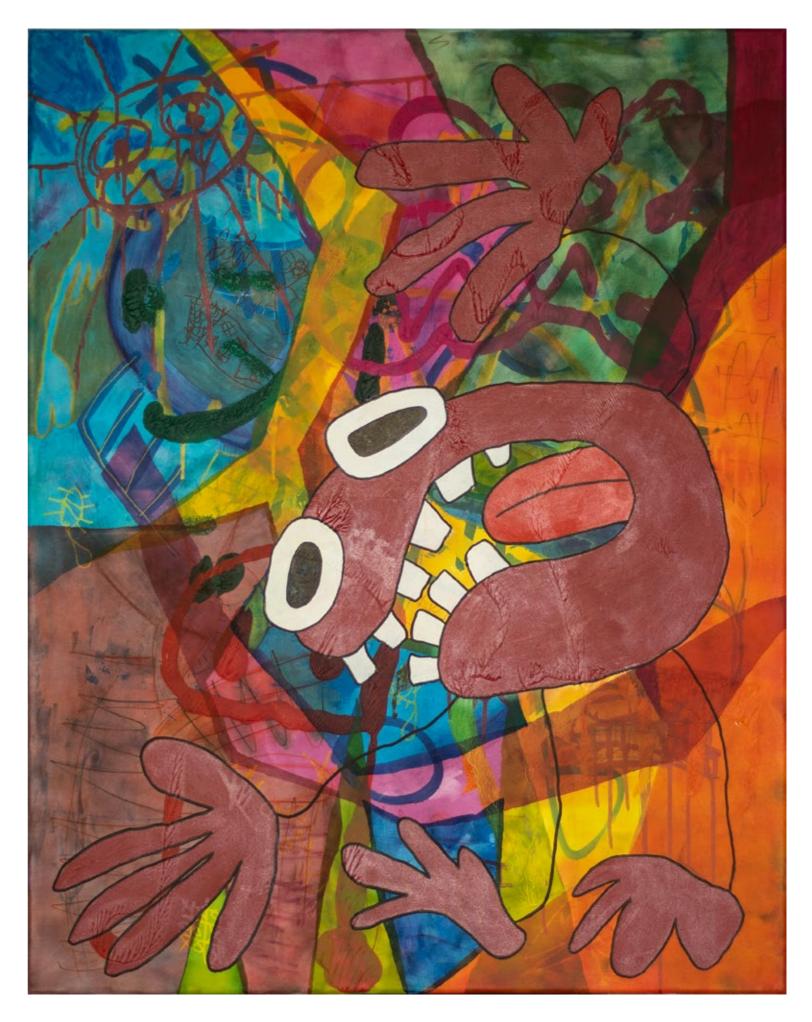
Chromatischer Drache und Yurp, 2024 Oil on canvas 70 x 60 cm



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