Raphael Reift

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*1987 CH, lives and works in Bern

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Solo exhibitions

Chaosmos, Material, Zurich
Raphael Reift in the open space, open art museum, St. Gallen
Ulk. Enttäuschte Reimerwartung, WABE, Basel
Apokalyptische Phantasien, Kulturpunkt, Bern
Ausstellung im Dachstöckli, Galerie Mayhaus, Erlach
Metaphernbalg im Bildersturm, Hard-Cover Art Gallery, Zurich
Reise ins Ungewisse, Gepard14, Bern

Group exhibitions

2024	Cantonale Berne Jura, La Nef, St. Ursanne
2024	Best Friends Forever with Rohling Incognito, Progr, Bern
2024	Cabinet of curiosities, Numas Igra, Basel
2024	A letter from a friend, Bacio, Bern
2024	Sihlquai253 (discourse and auction), Coincoin, Zurich
2024	The Glint, Full Circle, Brussels
2024	Format K (inclusiv art project), alte Bibliothek, Munchenbuchsee
2024	ETERNAL ELEMENTS, COMPLEX.156, Zurich
2023	Kunstwerkstatt Waldau - BEST OF, Kulturpunkt, Bern
2023	Best Friends Forever with Rohling Incognito, Outside Rohling, Bern
2023	Format K (inclusiv art project), alte Bibliothek, Munchenbuchsee
2022	BFF x RI Merry Christmas, Outside Rohling, Bern
2022	Lost Darlings, CRMI, Langenthal
2022	Aufgewühlt, Galerie im Kloster, SSBL, Emmen
2022	take ART away 20/22, ductus Kunstgalerie Café Bar, Luzern
2021	BFF x RI Merry Christmas, Outside Rohling, Bern
2021	Supermarkt by Galerie Mayhaus, Galerie Mayhaus, Erlach
2021	Jenseits aller Regeln, Kunstmuseum Thurgau, Warth
2020	Myceling, Künstlerhaus S11, Solothurn

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

Awards

2022 Lions Club Central Switzerland Art Promotion Prize

Collections

2015 Collection Rolf Röthlisberger

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.



With drooping wings/ Wheatfield with bloi crows

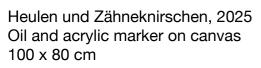
Sometimes I find it difficult to come up with a title for a painting. I often let myself be inspired by the motifs in the painting. On one hand there is an angel with drooping wings in the painting. He reminds me of the chorus ,With drooping wings' from the opera ,Dido and Aeneas' by Henry Purcell. In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



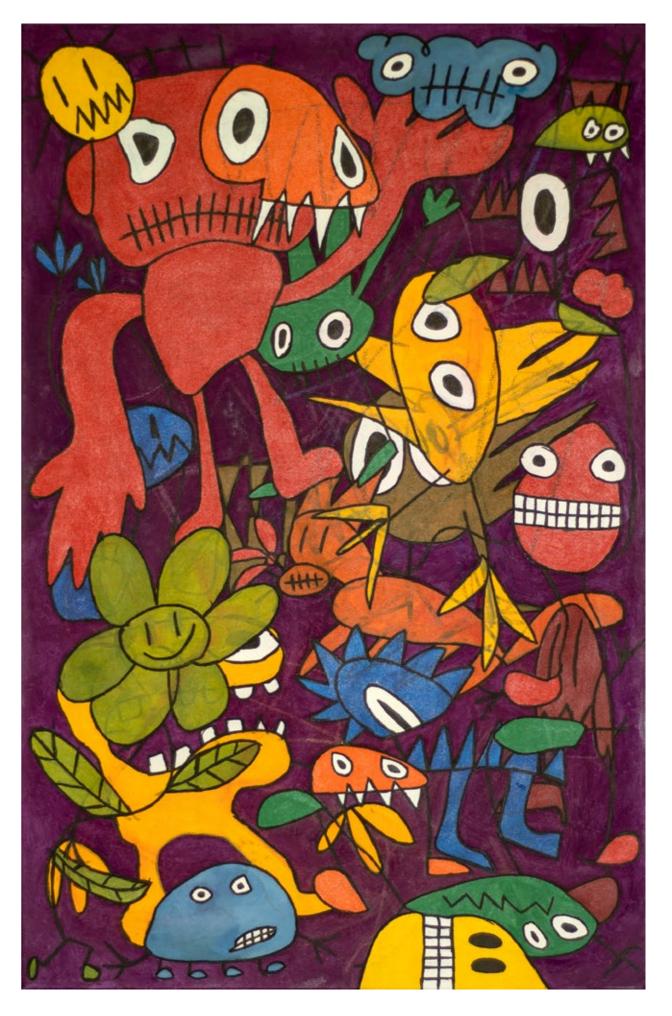
Lindwurm und Lenz, 2024 Mixed media on canvas 70 x 50 cm



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