

Raphael Reift

Raphael Reift
*1987 CH, lives and works in Bern

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Solo exhibitions

- 2025 Chaosmos, Material, Zurich
- 2025 Raphael Reift in the open space, open art museum, St. Gallen
- 2023 Ulk. Enttäuschte Reimerwartung, WABE, Basel
- 2022 Apokalyptische Phantasien, Kulturpunkt, Bern
- 2022 Ausstellung im Dachstöckli, Galerie Mayhaus, Erlach
- 2021 Metaphernbalg im Bildersturm, Hard-Cover Art Gallery, Zurich
- 2020 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 Gnös, 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.'"



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