

## 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.

### Public Collections

LAM Museum Lisse  
Secrid Collection, Netherlands  
ING Global Art Collection  
Aegon Art Collection  
Blue Knowledge Art Collection

### Solo Exhibitions (selection)

- 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

- 2022 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 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 sachverhalte 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 Schalterhalle 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"

### 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