

Friederike von Rauch Stefanie Schweiger DISRUPTIVE REALITIES

About artistic work, its conditions -
and the resilience of female artists

In the exhibition *DISRUPTIVE REALITIES – On working in the arts, its conditions – and the resilience of female artists*, Friederike von Rauch and Stefanie Schweiger deploy artistic and documentary perspectives to examine the effects of contemporary crises on the realities of life and work of female artists. The exhibition opens up a space for reflection: on structural inequality, the relationship between art and society, and about what resilience can mean today.

Today's global crises are multilayered. Climate catastrophes, war, political instability, and social polarization are the marks of our times. As public discourse sways between feelings of defensiveness and being overwhelmed, the field of art is coming under pressure as well. The idea that art exists outside of social framework conditions is an illusion. When funding structures collapse, institutions react from a place of uncertainty, and the economic basis of cultural practitioners remains fragile, artistic freedom can no longer be taken for granted.

Female artists are especially affected by this. They operate in a field of tension shaped by structural inequality, family obligations, invisible labor, and economic instability—often within an art industry that is largely opaque and selective.

DISRUPTIVE REALITIES sees itself as an open, living project where voices and data, biographies and statistics, art and analysis are in conversation with one another. Aside from slogans of perseverance, what might resilience look like? How can we engage with the topic of structural inequality without being reductive towards individual experiences?

The exhibition rejects simple narratives. Instead, it focuses on moments of ambivalence, fracture, and tension. Resilience is not understood as a strength but as a practice—as an ongoing negotiation of one's position, stance, and visibility. Thus, *DISRUPTIVE REALITIES* is also a statement: for artistic autonomy, structural visibility, and the right to complexity.

It is aimed at artists, institutions, funding organizations, the media—and at a broad audience. For the political dimensions of artistic work are not just evident in the artwork itself, but also in the conditions of its creation.

For this project, Friederike von Rauch and Stefanie Schweiger conducted interviews with twenty female artists from various backgrounds, disciplines, and age groups, exploring themes of labor, resistance, exhaustion, and hope.

These conversations form the basis for a polyphonic archive of the present that connects personal experiences with socio-political issues.

The exhibition presents filmed interviews, video art, a sound collage, and photographs. In addition, it displays recent statistical data on the social and economic state of female artists in Berlin.

Exhibition

29 August - 28 September
2025

Opening

Thursday, 28 August
7 pm

Introduction

Dr Dorothea Schöne
Artistic Director,
Kunsthaut Dahlem

Panel discussion

Thursday 18 September
7 pm

with Klaus Lederer, Heidi Sill
and Hergen Wöbken
Moderated by
Dr Dorothea Schöne

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Free admission

No barrier-free access
Tue-Sun 11am-6pm

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Press images

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An exhibition of the Department of Art, Culture, Museen Tempelhof-Schöneberg.
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Friederike von Rauch (b. 1967) lives and works in Berlin. Trained as a silversmith and industrial designer at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin), today she works as a visual artist with a focus on photography. Her reduced, atmospherically dense works have been widely exhibited, including at the Deichtorhallen in Hamburg, Berlinische Galerie in Berlin, and i8 Gallery in Reykjavik. Her work is represented in renowned collections (e.g. at Deutsche Bank and the German Bundestag).

She has been developing socio-cultural projects with Stefanie Schweiger since 2021.

Stefanie Schweiger (b. 1979, lives in Berlin) is a visual artist with a focus on photography. Her work is rooted in transcultural contexts between Asia and Europe, operating in the field of tension between the familiar and the foreign, knowledge and the lack thereof, and representation and projection. She studied art history in Frankfurt and photography at Letzte Verein in Berlin. Her photographic work has been exhibited internationally and combines documentary approaches with a poetic, narrative visual language.