

Press Release  
Berlin/Neuss, 22 June 2023

***Beautiful Disasters*, solo exhibition by Conny Maier, curated by Udo Kittelmann at the Langen Foundation**

The Langen Foundation is pleased to present *Beautiful Disasters*, Conny Maier's first comprehensive institutional exhibition. The exhibition will be on display from 3 September 2023 through 7 April 2024 at the former NATO base in Hombroich, which housed Pershing missiles during the Cold War. Curated by Udo Kittelmann, who has frequently worked with Maier, the show will be made up of a series of images created especially for this exhibition and of the artist's earlier works.

Maier's large-scale paintings reflect on the polarities of dominance and submission, equilibrium and instability, the human and the non-human. In *Beautiful Disasters*, she responds to 21st century questions of immoderation and fundamental distrust of reason with relentlessly colorful answers. Misshapen figures, seen with wide open mouths and gelatinous appendages, often multi-breasted and donned in malformed headdresses, wander through her canvases in vivid, sweeping brush strokes. Her compositions oscillate between fascination and repulsion, beauty and the grotesque, to depict life beyond the expected. Considered together, Maier's abstractions offer an unflinching look at the end of the Holocene and the realities of our new age and ask what kind of a new day might dawn.

Also on display in the Japan Room is the Langen Foundation's collection of ink scroll paintings and pictures of the seasons from the Edo Period (1603-1868), a golden era of Japanese art. The exhibit includes landscape ink paintings of seasonal flowers, plants, and wildlife that represent the stylistic diversity and magnificence of the period.

**About Conny Maier**

Conny Maier lives and works in Berlin and Baleal, Portugal. She was one of three recipients of Deutsche Bank's prestigious Artists of the Year award in 2021. In September 2023, she will show a large-scale solo exhibition at Langen Foundation, Neuss, and recently exhibited in solo and group shows at venues including de 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg; Palais Populaire, Berlin; MUDEC, Milan; and *THE KING IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE QUEEN*, curated by Udo Kittelmann at Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden. Maier has exhibited internationally, including *Where have all the flowers gone?* De 11 Lijnen, Belgium (2022); *Feels like rabies*, Société, Berlin (2022); *Grenzgänge 2*, König Galerie, Seoul (2021); *Grenzgänge*, Ruttkowski; 68, Cologne (2021); *Die Zähmung*, Kunstverein Heppenheim (2020); *Domestic*, König Galerie, Berlin (2020); *Am Rothenbaum*, Ruttkowski; 68, Paris (2018); *A. Tennis*, Parallel Vienna, Vienna (2017); *Coke First PT.II*, BOLD Room, Los Angeles (2016); and many other group exhibitions at several institutions.

**About the Langen Foundation**

The Langen Foundation was founded by Marianne Langen and designed by the Japanese architect Tadao Ando. The Ando-designed building, which opened to the public in 2004, contains three exhibition rooms covering 1,300 square meters. Situated on a former NATO missile base, Ando aimed to create a continuity between the interior and exterior of the building, using reinforced concrete, glass, and steel in a double-shell construction that blends into the surrounding landscape. The unique institution is located in Neuss, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. It is dedicated to the Langen Collection, which includes works of Eastern and Western art brought together by Viktor and Marianne Langen during their lifetimes. In addition to its collection, the Langen Foundation hosts exhibitions by renowned artists such as Ólafur Elíasson, Richard Deacon, Minjung Kim, Park Seo-Bo, Alicja Kwade, and Sean Scully. Currently on display through 6 August 2023, is Julian Charrière's exhibition *Controlled Burn*.

**About Udo Kittelmann**

Udo Kittelmann is a curator and is currently the artistic director of the Museum Frieder Burda in

Baden-Baden. From 1994 to 2001, he was director of the Kölnischer Kunstverein in Cologne. In 2002, he was appointed director of the Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK) in Frankfurt, a position he held for six years. From 2008 to 2020, he was director of the Nationalgalerie der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin, which comprises six museums: the Alte Nationalgalerie, the Neue Nationalgalerie, the Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart, the Museum Berggruen, the Scharf-Gerstenberg Collection, and the Friedrichswerdersche Kirche. Kittelmann has organized exhibitions at the Fondazione Prada in Milan, Shanghai, and Venice, the Centro Botin in Santander, and the Foundation Beyeler in Basel. Kittelmann was commissioner and curator of the German Pavilion at the 49th Venice Biennale and was awarded a Golden Lion for best international pavilion.

### **Supporting Program**

The Langen Foundation will offer guided tours, workshops, and educational programs for students of the Düsseldorf Art Academy in accompaniment with Maier's exhibition. In the workshops, students will discuss the development of painting and its position within the technological art forms of the 21st century, among other topics. Additionally, the Foundation is developing a project that aims to encourage students to use painting as a means of creating a deeper understanding of themselves and of art. The project will be organized in close cooperation with the Cultural Department of the city of Neuss and the Responsible Office of the city of Düsseldorf. For further information, write [info@langenfoundation.de](mailto:info@langenfoundation.de)

**Press images for [download](#)**

### **Press Contacts**

#### **Send/Receive, Berlin**

Anne Maier

[+49 170 290 7585](tel:+491702907585)

[anne@sendreceive.eu](mailto:anne@sendreceive.eu)

[www.sendreceive.eu](http://www.sendreceive.eu)

#### **Langen Foundation, Neuss**

Mara Sporn

[+49 2182 5701 11](tel:+492182570111) / [+49 151 62 606 761](tel:+4915162606761)

[sporn@langenfoundation.de](mailto:sporn@langenfoundation.de)

[www.langenfoundation.de](http://www.langenfoundation.de)