

PRESS RELEASE



GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE
WWW.ART-CRU.DE · FACEBOOK.COM/GALERIEARTCRUBERLIN

030 / 24 35 73 14
GALERIE@ART-CRU.DE

JULIAN STRĘK

Vernissage: Thursday, 27.11.2014, 7pm
Exhibition: 28.11.2014 – 24.01.2015
Opening Hours: Tuesday- Saturday, 12 - 6 pm
Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany

Introduction: Jochen Schmidt
Collector
Wolfram Voigtländer
PS Art-e.V. Berlin

Galerie ART CRU Berlin shows wood-works by polish artist Julian Stręk (b. in Ostrow, Poland, 1932 – 2000), who was mostly unrecognized by the (Outsider) art world until today. Since childhood Stręk has created concise carvings and left behind a comprehensive body of works which are simultaneously coherent and rich in variation. On view will be larger ensembles pieced together out of a variety of prominently carved single figures.

Hundreds of small plant-spears, crosses, lances or shields have been carved by Julian Stręk to adorn his figures. In combination with these objects, and due to a characteristic painting approach with floor paints in certain recurring color-codes, the figures can be identified as priests, soldiers, angels or kings. Otherwise the figures have been formed exclusively in a rough, schematic manner using a simple pocket knife the artist sharpens himself. They look at the viewer with eyes consisting of reduced black dots, which seem to be emotionless on first glance. An intensive aura is created, particularly when Stręk invokes scenes by skillfully grouping the single figures: the three Magi; the crucifixion of Christ; ceremonial burials of various (noble) figures. The impressively tall houses stand at approx. 1,5m and are decorated with a large number of floral or representational ornaments, resembling altar retables, shrines or nativities due to their symmetrical structure and collapsible side-wings. And yet Stręk's towering wood compositions go beyond a solely Christian reference. He started his carvings during the time of Poland's occupation by Nazi Germany. Soldiers in green or brown uniforms are placed next to clerics whose pastoral staffs naturally define the pictorial language in Stręk's works, neighboring the iron crosses of the soldiers.

Julian Stręk was born September 8, 1932 in Ostrow close to Ropczyce, northeast of Debica in Poland and grew up with his family on a small farm. His education started in 1939 only to abruptly end with the beginning of occupation by the Germans when the school was closed. His childhood was characterized by the proximity to a forced labor camp an SS-troupes training area, and heavy combat towards the end of war. These early childhood memories are reflected in Stręk's works. Other influences were a

Trägerverein:
PS-Art e.V. Berlin
Oranienburger Straße 27
10117 Berlin-Mitte

Vorstand:
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Ralph Stabbert
Wolfram Voigtländer

Spendenkonto:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE42100205000001082600
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

PRESS RELEASE



children's book by Polish historical painter Jan Matejko about Polish princes and kings (it was his only book) and Christian symbols.

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is Berlin's only gallery for so-called Outsider Art since 2008. The term (introduced in 1945 by painter Jean Dubuffet as "Art Brut") refers to art by people with psychiatric disorders or mental disabilities. The gallery's main focus is to reduce the distance between established art and Outsider Art. Furthermore it aims at interconnecting the artists and their scenes. Being located at the Kunsthof in Oranienburger Straße, the gallery doesn't just present works by people with disabilities right in the centre of the art scene; it also increases their public visibility. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is backed by the non-profit federation PS-Art e.V. Berlin – a network of different institutions.

For further information and images please contact us:

Contact: Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Matthias Hofmann (press)
Phone: + 49 / (0)30 24 35 73 14 // + 49 / (0)172 3833728
Mail: galerie@art-cru.de
Web: www.art-cru.de
Fb: [facebook.com/GalerieARTCRUBerlin](https://www.facebook.com/GalerieARTCRUBerlin)
Hours: Tuesday till Saturday / 12 – 6 pm

Trägerverein:
PS-Art e.V. Berlin
Oranienburger Straße 27
10117 Berlin-Mitte

Vorstand:
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Ralph Stabbert
Wolfram Voigtländer

Spendenkonto:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE42100205000001082600
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

PRESS RELEASE

For printable image material please contact:
galerie@art-cru.de



30x60x20 cm



15x30 cm

8x28 cm



8x23 cm

9x30 cm



100x120x40 cm

All works: Julian Stręnk - untitled, undated, wood, floor paint

Trägerverein:
PS-Art e.V. Berlin
Oranienburger Straße 27
10117 Berlin-Mitte

Vorstand:
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Ralph Stabbert
Wolfram Voigtländer

Spendenkonto:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE42100205000001082600
BIC: BFSWDE33BER