

P R E S S R E L E A S E

'5 years – Six artists'

Cologne gallerist Bene Taschen celebrates the fifth anniversary of his Hardhitta Gallery

Press Preview: Friday, 15 January 2016, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Opening: Friday, 15 January 2016, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Duration: 16 January – 20 March 2016

Location: Hardhitta Gallery at TASCHEN publishers
Hohenzollernring 53, 50672 Cologne



Arlene Gottfried, El Cotorito, 1980, 40,6 x 50,8 cm, Cibachrome print, © + Courtesy of the artist

Founded in 2011, **Hardhitta Gallery** is celebrating its fifth year of existence on **15 January 2016**. For its anniversary exhibition **5 Years – Six Artists** gallerist Bene Taschen will feature gallery artists **Arlene Gottfried, Jamel Shabazz, Gregory Bojorquez, Joseph Rodriguez, Miron Zownir, and Oliver Blum**, showing a selection of works that has never before been seen in Germany.

Over the course of four years, Hardhitta Gallery held exhibitions in temporary locations in Los Angeles, Berlin, and Cologne, before settling in a permanent gallery space in Cologne's city center in September 2015. The gallery, whose tile floor was designed by artist Albert Oehlen, underpins the gallery concept with a unique interplay between photography and painting.

All five fine art photographers are well known for their documentary style and their poignant views of lively, gritty, eccentric, as well as melancholic moments in life. Rounding out the jubilee exhibition are intensely colored and abstract works by Oliver Blum, whose dynamic and experimental approach to painting reflect an individual style free from artistic norms.

Arlene Gottfried (*1950) is an American photographer who took her first photographs in 1969 during the legendary Woodstock festival. Fascinated by the multifaceted communities she encountered while growing up, Gottfried went on to document the vast diversity of New York City in her photographs. // **Her works are included in collections such as:** Museum Folkwang, Essen; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Musée Arthur Batut, Labruguière; Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; The Jewish Museum, New York; The New York Public Library, New York.

Gregory Bojorquez (*1972) grew up in East Los Angeles, where he continues to live and work today. He began his career and passion by photographing his friends and neighbors. Bojorquez's images reflect the diverse communities of his native city, from Hollywood to L.A.'s street gangs.

Joseph Rodriguez (*1951) lives and works in New York. Rodriguez, a former convict and drug addict, found a way out of crime through his passion for photography, as a form of therapy and a way of life. His pictures portray the everyday realities of the people at the heart of his work. // **His works are included in collections such as:** International Center of Photography, New York; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.; The Open Society Foundation, New York.

Jamel Shabazz (*1960) grew up in the streets of Red Hook, Brooklyn. Shabazz takes viewers back in time, capturing the aura of the 80s with the images presented in this exhibition. His pictures depict a time of transition and the emergence of a new lifestyle and culture whose relevance persists today. // **His works are included in collections such as:** Whitney Museum of American Art; Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C.; Brooklyn Public Library, New York; Fashion Institute of Technology Fine Art, New York

Miron Zownir (*1953) has been regarded as one of the most radical contemporary photographers for more than 30 years. He finds his subjects in western metropolises such as Berlin, London, and New York, and in post-communist Eastern Europe. His photographs depict the underbelly of society: drug addicts, homeless, prostitutes, and petty thieves, offering penetrating views into their various subcultures. Zownir lives and works in Berlin. // **His works have been exhibited in museums such as:** Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur; Museum für Fotografie, Braunschweig; Georgian National Museum of Fine Arts, Tiflis; Centre de Cultura Contemporànea, Barcelona.

Oliver Blum (*1978) is known for his dynamic, experimental painting style, which led him to the development of an individual approach that is liberated from conventional forms and work methods. His pictures reveal primitive structures or cubist abstractions, while leaving room for the viewer to arrive at their own individual interpretations. Blum lives and works in Düsseldorf.

Upcoming exhibitions & fairs:

Miron Zownir

26 March – 26 May 2016

Opening: 25 March 2015, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Hohenzollernring 53, 50672 Cologne

Photo London

19 May – 22 May 2016

Somerset House

Strand, London WC2R 1LA, England

For information on the gallery and the art works, please contact:

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Opening hours: Friday – Sunday, 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

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