

# Johannes Kahrs

## Biography

Johannes Kahrs was born in Bremen, Germany, in 1965. He lives and works in Berlin.

Perception's analysis and images' manipulation are at the core of Johannes Kahrs' reflection. The subjects of the German author's artworks present themselves in all their human indecipherability, shaken by pressures and malaise: the monstrous yet familiar realism of Kahrs' paintings provokes entangled empathy and reveals the hidden and violent side of humanity. Starting from images collected from magazines, the internet, newspapers, advertisements, amateur and feature films, but also from photographs taken by himself, Johannes Kahrs releases the image from its original context, depicting fragmented and isolated scenes and escaping a coherent narrative. By cutting the image, enlarging its details and disconnecting it from its original embedded context, the artist emphasizes the symbolic meaning of the scene to reveal its deeper and mysterious contents. With his work, Johannes Kahrs challenges our beliefs and our ability to observe what surrounds us. Through his pictorial practice, the artist fights the hectic and superficial representation of human body in times of mass communication and out-of-control sharing. Johannes Kahrs questions reality by revealing its physicality, perturbation and its violent sensuality.

Work by the artist is held in major museum collections such as: Centre Pompidou, Paris; MOCA, Los Angeles; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; Museu Serralves, Porto; SFMoMA, San Francisco; UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; MoMA, New York and S.M.A.K., Ghent.

### Solo exhibitions

#### 2024

2024 - Port renversé, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

#### 2023

2023 - As I descended into impassible waters I no longer felt guided by the ferrymen, Zeno X Gallery Antwerp Borgerhout, Antwerp, B

#### 2020

2020 - Johannes Kahrs, Hall Art Foundation, Schloss Derneburg Museum, Derneburg, D  
2020 - Sleep, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

#### 2018

2018 - Hell I Am, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

#### 2017

2017 - Embrace, Luhring Augustine, New York, US

#### 2016

2016 - Then, maybe, the explosion of a star, FRAC Île-de-France, Paris, F  
2016 - Early this mornin', ooh, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

#### 2014

2014 - Tropical Nights, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nürnberg, D. Catalogue

2014 - Tropical Nights, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

### **2013**

2013 - Johannes Kahrs, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden, D

### **2012**

2012 - Johannes Kahrs, Kunsthaus Centre d'Art Pasquart, Biel, CH

### **2011**

2011 - Johannes Kahrs, Luhring Augustine, New York, US

### **2010**

2010 - Johannes Kahrs, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

### **2009**

2009 - I can't think of the finish, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

### **2008**

2008 - Eyes on his body, Luhring Augustine, New York, US

### **2007**

2007 - Men with music, GAMeC, Bergamo, I

### **2006**

2006 - Lonely long meaningless way home, Parasol Unit foundation for contemporary art, London, UK

2006 - Ein ganz fremder Nackter, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

### **2004**

2004 - Dunkles Zimmer, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

### **2003**

2003 - Down 'n Out, Zeno X Storage, Antwerp, B. Catalogue

### **2002**

2002 - Down 'n Out, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, B

2002 - Questions, Studio Massimo De Carlo, Milan, I

2002 - The Drunken Boat, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, F

### **2001**

2001 - A-h, S.M.A.K, Ghent, B

2001 - A-h, FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, F. Catalogue

2001 - A-h, Kunstverein München, München, D

### **2000**

2000 - Night in Sexyland, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2000 - Last virgin on the left, Galerie Signal, Malmö, SE

2000 - Shot and Painted, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D

2000 - La révolution Permanente, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris, F

### **1999**

1999 - Statement, Art 29 Basel, presented by Galerie Almine Rech, Basel, CH

### **1998**

1998 - Why don't you paint my portrait, Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen, D. Catalogue

1998 - Double Stage - 6 Seconds Popular Violence, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D

1998 - A-h, Galerie Almine Reich, Paris, F

1998 - Schwarzes Loch/Weisse Wand, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D

### **1997**

1997 - 93'09'' - Vorzimmer / 4 Klacks, Vereniging Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, Ghent, B

1997 - hole, Galerie Arndt & Partner, Berlin, D  
1997 - Thomson Homestead, Slater, Missouri, Galerie Transit, Leuven, B

#### **1995**

1995 - Bild und Malerei, Galerie Wohnmaschine, Berlin, D

#### **1994**

1994 - Schlag doch, DAAD Galerie, Berlin, D. Catalogue

#### **1993**

1993 - Keine Falsche Bewegung, Galerie Mutzek, Berlin, D

#### **Group exhibitions**

#### **2022**

2022 - Amour, Gloire et Beauté, TheMerode, Brussels, B  
2022 - Stories of Paper, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2022 - 40 Years Zeno X Gallery - the nineties, Zeno X Gallery Antwerp South, Antwerp, B  
2022 - Portrait, Leienpaleis, Antwerp, B

#### **2021**

2021 - Bodywork: Discomfort and Existence, MASSIMODECARLO, Milano, I  
2021 - Peinture: Obsolescence déprogrammée, Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix, Les Sables d'Olonne, F

#### **2019**

2019 - Trouble in Paradise. Collection Rattan Chadha, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, NL  
2019 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo, USA  
2019 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, D  
2019 - Inside - Out. Constructions Of The Self, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, D  
2019 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

#### **2018**

2018 - Michael Jackson: On The Wall, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK. Catalogue  
2018 - Michael Jackson: On the Wall, Grand Palais, Paris, F  
2018 - Works on Paper I, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

#### **2017**

2017 - The Truth of Uncertainty: Moving Image Works from the Hall Collection, Schloss Derneburg, Derneburg, D

#### **2016**

2016 - In the Cage of Freedom, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, D  
2016 - Retour au Meilleur des Mondes, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F  
2016 - Private Exposure, Collectors Room, Berlin, D

#### **2015**

2015 - La vie moderne, 13th Lyon Biennale, Lyon, F  
2015 - Prima Facie: Works from the Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, The Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery, Tel Aviv, IL  
2015 - I am a Lie and I am Gold, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, USA  
2015 - 13th Lyon Biennial: La Vie Moderne, MAC, Lyon, F  
2015 - Sense Uncertainty. A Private Collection, Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich, CH  
2015 - Raoul De Keyser, Johannes Kahrs, Mark Manders, Mircea Suci, Patrick Van Caeckenbergh, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B  
2015 - Cannibalism? On Appropriation in Art, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, PL  
2015 - Works on Paper II, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

#### **2014**

2014 - Donkere kamers, Over melancholie en depressie, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent, B  
2014 - Kees Goudwaard, Kim Jones, Johannes Kahrs, Jenny Scobel, Jack Whitten, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

2014 - Mediations Biennale 2014, National Museum Poznan, Poznan, PL

### **2013**

2013 - Opening New Space, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B

### **2012**

2012 - Geteilt/ ungeteilt. Kunst in Deutschland 1945 bis 2010, Ausstellung der Galerie Neue Meister, Dresden, D

2012 - Fruits de la passion, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, F

2012 - Schach Matt, Märkisches Museum, Witten, D

### **2011**

2011 - abc, about painting, Station-Berlin , Berlin, D

### **2010**

2010 - Objetos Desclasificados, Caixa Forum, Barcelona, E

2010 - Celebration. Ouverture nouvel espace, Frac Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F

### **2009**

2009 - Private Universes, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, USA

2009 - Between Art and Life. The contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection, SFMOMA, San Francisco, USA

2009 - Defiance & Melancholy. German Painting from the Dresden Albertinum/ galerie Neue Meister., Helsinki City Art Museum, Helsinki, FIN

2009 - Re-Imagining Asia, The New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK

### **2008**

2008 - Re-Imagining Asia, House of World Cultures, Berlin, D

2008 - Colección de Arte Contemporáneo de la Fundación la Caixa, Caixaforum, Madrid, E

2008 - western moderne, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F

2008 - The Painting of Modern Life, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, I

### **2007**

2007 - The Painting of Modern Life, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

2007 - De Cirkel, Roger Raveelmuseum, Machelen-Zulte, B

2007 - Visit(e): Contemporary art in Germany, Bozar, Brussels, B

2007 - Works on paper, Zeno X Gallery & Zeno X Storage, Antwerp, B

### **2006**

2006 - Vous êtes ici, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, F

2006 - Parcours video-installatie, Beursschouwburg, Brussels, B

2006 - Constructing Reality: New Berlin, Bass Museum of Art, Miami, USA

2006 - 25 years Zeno X Gallery, Zeno X Gallery & Zeno X Storage, Antwerp, B

2006 - Leeftijdgenoten, Roger Raveelmuseum, Machelen-aan-de-Leie, B

2006 - flutter, The Approach, London, UK

2006 - Constructing Reality, Phoenix Art Museum, New Berlin, D

2006 - Johannes Kahrs, Magnus von Plessen, Eberhard Havekost und Wilhelm Sasnal, Coleção Fundação de Serralves , Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, PT

2006 - Le Mouvement des Images, Centre Pompidou, Paris, F

2006 - La mirada de l'artista: la proposta de Juan Uslé, Fundacio La Caixa, Barcelona, E

### **2005**

2005 - Zur Vorstellung des Terrors: Die RAF - Ausstellung, Kunst-Werke, Berlin, D

2005 - Young artists (selected by), I , B, Witte Zaal, Ghent, B

### **2004**

2004 - Drafting Deceit, Apexart, New York, USA

2004 - 45th October Salon, Continental Breakfast, Belgrade, RUS

2004 - Manifesta 5, European Biennale of Contemporary Art, San Sebastian, E

2004 - Contre - Images, Carré d'Art, Nîmes, F

2004 - Berlin-Moskau / Moskau-Berlin 1950-2000, Staatliche Tretjakov Galerie, Moscow, RUS

2004 - Zie Tekening, Project Voorkamer, Stedelijk Museum Wuyts-Van Campen & Baron Caroly, Lier, B  
2004 - Was Malerei heute ist, Stiftung Opelvillen, Rüsselheim, D

### **2003**

2003 - Fuori Uso 03, Fuori Uso Cocktail Bar, Pescara, I  
2003 - Plastik, Plüsch und Politik - Reflexe der 70er Jahre in der Gegenwartskunst, Städtische Galerie Nordhorn, Nordhorn, D  
2003 - Berlin-Moskau / Moskau-Berlin 1950-2000, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, D  
2003 - Kiss and Ride, Z33 / Begijnhof, Hasselt, B  
2003 - Warum! Bilder diesseits und jenseits des Menschen, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, D  
2003 - A Mains Nues, FRAC Haute-Normandie, F  
2003 - Deutschmalereizweitausenddrei, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, D  
2003 - Great Theater of the World, Taipei Biennial, Taipei, RC

### **2002**

2002 - Cardinales, MARCO - Museo de Arte Contemporánea de Vigo, Vigo, E  
2002 - Questions, Studio Massimo De Carlo, Milan, I  
2002 - Without Consent, CAN - Centre d'art de Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, CH

### **2001**

2001 - In/Site/Out, Apex, New York, USA  
2001 - Double - Trouble, Borusan Kültür ve Sanat, Istanbul, TR  
2001 - Moving Pictures. Photography and Film in Contemporary Art, Villa Merkel / Bahnwärterhaus, Esslingen, D  
2001 - Screen, Psychiatrisch Centrum Sleidinge, Sleidinge, B  
2001 - Squatters, Museo de Art Contemporain de Serralves, Porto, P

### **2000**

2000 - Indoor, S.M.A.K., Ghent, B  
2000 - Children of Berlin, Museum Folkwang, Essen, D  
2000 - Dorothea von Stetten Kunstprize, Kunstmuseum Bonn, D  
2000 - Kunstbank Berlin, Berlin, D

### **1999**

1999 - Face à l'Autre, FRAC Haute-Normandie, F  
1999 - The Children of Berlin, PS 1, New York, USA  
1999 - Ainsi de suite 3, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Sète, F  
1999 - Rue Louise Weiss, Centre d'Art contemporain, Meymac, F  
1999 - Indoor, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, F  
1999 - Art Club Berlin, AU Base, New York, USA  
1999 - Independance day, Kunst-Werke e.V., Berlin, D  
1999 - Drawings, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, B  
1999 - EV + A, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick, IRL

### **1998**

1998 - Biennale de Berlin, Berlin, D  
1998 - The Cinema Project, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, D  
1998 - Indoor, Centro civico per l'Arte Contemporanea, Serre di Rapolano, I  
1998 - Le présent du Futur, FRAC Languedoc-Rousillon, Montpellier, F  
1998 - Kamikaze, Marstall, Berlin, D

### **1997**

1997 - Heaven - Private View, P.S.1, New York, USA  
1997 - Selection Fall 1997, Drawing Center, New York, USA  
1997 - Korrespondenzen, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK  
1997 - Fenêtre sur cour, Galerie Almine Reich, Paris, F

### **1996**

1996 - The Aggression of Beauty, Galerie Arndt & Partner, Berlin, D  
1996 - Nach Weimar, Kunstsammlungen zu Weimar, Weimar, D  
1996 - Laboratorium Berlin - Moscow, Contemporary Art Center, Moscow, RUS

**1995**

1995 - Club Berlin, Biennale XLV, Venice, I

1995 - Close Up, Städtische Galerie, Bremen, D

1995 - Filmcuts, Galerie Neugerriemschneider, Berlin, D

1995 - Drawings, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich, CH

**1994**

1994 - Postconceptual Painting, Kunstwerke, Berlin, D

1994 - A Personal Choice, Galerie Franck + Schulte, Berlin, D

**1990**

1990 - Geist und Körper, Deutsches Museum für Geschichte, Berlin, D

# Bibliography

## 2021

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## 2020

"Massimo De Carlo opens a solo exhibition of works by the German artist Johannes Kahrs", *Artdaily*, November 2020.

## 2017

*Artspeak NYC*, March 22 2017.

Gebremedhin, Thomas. "'Q & A with Artist Johannes Kahrs on His Evocative New Solo Exhibition", *The Wall Street Journal*, March 17 2017.

## 2016

"Les flous portraits de Johannes Kahrs", *Beaux Arts Magazine*, n. No. 384, July 2016, p. 116..

Beil, Ralf. "Holger Broeker and Christiane Heuwinkel" in *Im Käfig Der Freiheit*. 2016.

Flamini, Fabiola. *Private Exposure - Works from the Olbricht Collection*, exhibition catalogue, . Berlin, Collectors Room / Stiftung Olbricht, 2016.

Goodrow, Gérard A.. *Sammlung Broska*, exhibition catalogue, Birgit and Dieter Broska,, 2016.

Kahrs, Johannes. *Then, maybe, the explosion of a star*. 2016 Texts by Xavier Franceschi.

Lavrador, Judicael. "Des stars jetées en peinture/ Stars Dispensed with in Paint", *Liberation*, June 10 2016.

Moulene, Claire. "Grandeur et decadence", *Les Inrockuptibles*, May 18 2016, pp. 90-91.

## 2015

*About Waves*. Museumcultuur Strombeek/Gent, MER Paper Kunsthalle, 2015.

Basciano, Oliver. "13th Lyon Biennale: La vie moderne", *Art Review* 67, n. No. 9, December 2015, p. 110.

Karabelnik, Marianne. *Sinnliche Ungewissheit - Eine private Sammlung*. Kehrer Verlag, 2015.

Mullins, Charlotte. *Picturing People - The New State of Art*, exhibition catalogue, . London, Thames and Hudson, 2015.

Raspail, Thierry, Ralph Rugoff e Marc Chauveau. *13e Biennale de Lyon*, exhibition catalogue, . Dijon, Les Presses du réel, 2015.

## 2014

*Johannes Kahrs: Tropical Nights*, exhibition catalogue, Verlag für moderne Kunst Nürnberg, Nürnberg 2014. Texts by Angela Lohrey, Ellen Seifermann.

Allegaert, Patrick, Yoon Hee Lamot e Bart Marius. *Donkere Kamers*. Uitgeverij Hannibal, 2014.

Sarit, Shapira. *Babel - Works from the Igal Ahouvi Art Collection*, exhibition catalogue, The Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts, 2014.

## 2013

"Heiliger St. Quentin!", *Monopol*, n. No. 2, February 2013, p. 48.

## 2012

Fluckiger, Gabriel. "Johannes Kahrs", *Kunst Bulletin*, n. No. 11, November 2012, pp. 78-79.  
Kahrs, Johannes. *Johannes Kahrs: Transcendence in Flesh and Blood*, exhibition catalogue, CentrePasquArt, Biel2012.

## 2011

"Johannes Kahrs", *January Biannual*, January 2011.  
Asfour, Nana. "Art: Johannes Kahrs", *Time Out New York*, n. Issue 832, 13-19, October 2011, p. 47..  
De Galbert, Antoine, Metzger Rainer e Damien Sausset. *Mémoires du Futur, la collection Olbricht*, exhibition catalogue, Fage éditions et la maison rouge, Paris2011.  
Hinrichsen, Jens. "Testfahrt für den Taxi Driver", *Monopol*, n. No. 8, August 2011, pp. 16-18..  
Sundt, Collin. "Rendering the Disappearance of Images", *Degree Critic*, Fall 2011.  
Zolghadr, Tirdad. *Psychopomp Counsel*. Stichting Ateliers 63, 2011.

## 2010

*Dresden - Illustriertes Bestandsverzeichnis*, exhibition catalogue, . Cologne, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, 2010.  
*Parasol unit - foundation for contemporary art on the occasion of its 5th anniversary 2005-2010*, exhibition catalogue, . London, Parasol Unit, 2010.  
Kahrs, Johannes. "Alte Meister, Von Neuen Geliebt", *Monopol*, June 2010, p. 28.  
Schwartzman, Allan. *Luhring Augustine - Twenty Five Years - 1985-2010*. New York, Luhring Augustine, 2010.

## 2009

*Berlin 2000*, exhibition catalogue, Pace Wildenstein, New York2009, pp. 80-83..  
*Johannes Kahrs*, exhibition catalogue, , Ostfildren2009. Texts by Ralph Rugoff, Hatje Cantz.  
Bärnthaler, Thomas, Duke Franz of Bavaria HRH e Patrizia Dander. *Commedia dell' Arte - Couture Edition*, 2009.  
Godfrey, Tony. *Painting Today*, 2009.  
Huitorel, Jean-Marc. *La collection du Frac des Pays de la Loire 1993 - 2002*, exhibition catalogue, Le Frac des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou2009.  
Rattemeyer, Christian, Glenn D. Lowry e Brian Scholis. *The Judith Rothschild Foundation Contemporary Drawings Collection - Catalogue Raisonné*, exhibition catalogue, The Museum of Modern Art, New York2009.

## 2008

"La inspiración fotográfica en la pintura", *Lapiz 27*, n. No. 242, April 2008, p. 22.  
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Bagatavicius, Christina. "The Painting of Modern Life", *C Magazine*, n. No. 97, Spring 2008, p. 41.  
Borcherdt, Gesine, Amélie Von Heydebreck e Barbara Gärtner. *Stations - 100 meisterwerke zeitgenössischer kunst*. Cologne, Dumont - Monopol, 2008.  
Diez, Renato. "Pittori della vita moderna", *Arte*, n. No. 415, 2008, pp. 96-102.  
Merali, Shaheen. *Re-imagining Asia: A Thousand Years of Separation*, 2008.  
Seban, Alain, Alfred Pacquement e Agnès De la Beaumelle. *Collection Art Graphique*, exhibition catalogue, Centre Pompidou - Musée national d'art moderne,, Paris2008.  
Wilson, Michael. "Johannes Kahrs, 'Eyes on His Body'", *Time Out New York*, n. p. 60, October - November 5 2008.

## 2007

*Johannes Kahrs: Men with Music*, exhibition catalogue, GAMEc, Bergamo2007. Texts by Alessandro Rabottini.  
Affronti, Fabrizio. "Chi ha paura dell'Arte contemporanea?" in *La Casana*. Genoa, 2007, p. 41..  
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Coessens, Piet. *De cirkel*, exhibition catalogue, Roger Raveel museum, Machelen-aan-de-Leie 2007.  
Fricke, Harald. "Alle sind beschädigt, niemand bleibt verschont", *Monopol*, n. No. 3, March 2007, pp. 60-70.  
Kane, Elena. "London: The Hayward Gallery—The Painting of Modern Life", *Contemporary*, n. No. 94, 2007, pp. 22-23.  
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## 2006

*Contemporary Art in Belgium 2007*, exhibition catalogue, . Brussels, Best of Publishing, 2006.  
*Dias Abertos / Open Days - Culturgest*. Arnhem, Roma Publications, 2006.  
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## 2005

*Checkpoint Charley: A project of the 4th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art*, exhibition catalogue, Biennial for Contemporary Art, Berlin 2005.  
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## 2004

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### 2003

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### 2002

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### 2001

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# Public Collections

## **Belgium**

Galerie Transit, Mechelen  
S.M.A.K. - Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent

## **France**

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris  
FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand  
FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou  
FRAC Île-de-France, Paris  
FRAC Picardie, Amiens

## **Germany**

Galerie Neue Meister, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden  
Hall Art Foundation, Derneburg  
Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart Berlin, Berlin  
Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg  
Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin

## **Israel**

Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, Tel Aviv

## **Norway**

Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker

## **Portugal**

Fundação de Serralves, Porto

## **Spain**

Contemporary Art Fundacio 'la Caixa', Barcelona

## **United Kingdom**

The Saatchi Collection, London

## **United States of America**

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas  
Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles  
MoCA - CA Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, New York  
SFMOMA - San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco