

Friedrich Kunath

Born in 1974, Germany
Lives and works in LA, USA

Friedrich Kunath evokes a distinct sense of nostalgia and melancholy by wittily fusing the traditions of German Romantic painting, the visual legacy of the Hudson River School, and disparate elements of contemporary American pop culture. His paintings begin as free, intuitive abstractions, onto which he progressively layers fragments of meaning. Utilizing dreamlike, brilliant sunset vistas as his backdrops, he showcases a singular visual language that juxtaposes cartoon characters, pop lyrics, cinematic quotes, and humorous text. This incongruous combination simultaneously generates the sublimity of classical art and the cynical irony of contemporary society, offering viewers a curious mixture of sadness and laughter.

Through an idiosyncratic combination of irony and sincerity, Kunath reinterprets personal interests—such as his life in Los Angeles, tennis, and cars—alongside universal human emotions like the transience of life, solitude, and the longing for love with a contemporary sensibility. Concealing profound philosophical resonance and literary narratives beneath the surface of light pop culture, his work charts a distinctly modern emotional landscape by translating sadness into humor and elevating cynicism into romance. His expansive practice, which encompasses drawing, sculpture, installation, and video alongside painting, builds a thoughtful and resonant artistic universe where wit, melancholy, and cultural memory seamlessly intersect..

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Born in 1974, Germany

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EDUCATION

1998, University of Arts, Braunschweig, Germany

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *On A Clear Day I Can See You Forever*, Galerie Max Hetzler, Paris
- 2025 *Aimless Love*, Pace Gallery, 510 West 25th Street, New York
Sunsets Soon Forgotten, Avlskarl Gallery, Copenhagen,
- 2024 *One Day I'll Follow the Byrds (Tutto Pasta)*, Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin
AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE (I'LL HAVE THE CALAMAR), G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig, Germany
I Need Solitude, But I Also Need You, Nassima Landau, Tel Aviv, Israel
I Remain Exhausted, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2023 *The Art of Surviving November*, Galerie Max Hetzler, London
A Table for Two for One, Travesia Cuatro, Madrid
Coming Home Was as Beautiful as Going Away, KINDL - Centre for Contemporary Art, Berlin
There Must Be a Spanish Word for This Feeling, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain
I Don't Know the Place, But I Know How to Get There, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- 2022 *Repair Is the Dream of a Broken Thing*, 313 Art Project, Seoul, South Korea
- 2021 *I'll Try to Be More Romantic*, Kunstsammlung Jena, Germany
Life Is Short and Days Are Long, Avlskarl Gallery, Copenhagen
New Ballads, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
The Things I Notice Now, Travesía Cuatro, Mexico City
- 2020 *Sensitive Euro Man*, König Galerie, Berlin
- 2019 *Songs Build Little Rooms in Time*, Soccer Club Club, Chicago
Live Forever, Blum & Poe, Tokyo
All Your Fears Trapped Inside, JTT, New York,
- 2018 *One Man's Ceiling is Another Man's Floor*, Blum & Poe, New York
Where is the Madness that You Promised Me, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2017 *Frutti di Mare*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- 2016 *Juckreiz, Sammlung Philara*, Dusseldorf, Germany
The World is a Beautiful Place (We're Not Here for Long), Kaikai Kiki Gallery, Tokyo
My Loneliness Shines, VNH Gallery, Paris
- 2015 *Sentimental Air*, BQ, Berlin
- 2014 *Earth to Fuckface*, White Cube, Hong Kong
If I Could Only Remember Your Name, Kunsthalle Bremerhaven, Germany
The Forest Smelled Like Bananas, CAPRI, Dusseldorf, Germany, September 5–November 8, 2014.
Friedrich Kunath, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, New York, July 19–November 9, 2014.
Grand Optimist, The Eastern Star Gallery, The Archer School for Girls, Los Angeles
The Temptation to Exist (May Contain Nuts), Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, March 15–Apr
A Plan to Follow Summer Around the World, Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry – le Crédac, Ivry-sur-Seine, France
- 2013 *I'm Running Out of World*, White Cube, London, November 22, 2013–January 25, 2014.
Raymond Moody's Blues, Modern Art Oxford, United Kingdom
- 2012 *Your Life is Not for You*, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany

- Lacan's Haircut*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, September 8–October 27, 2012. (Catalogue)
- Things We Did When We Were Dead*, BQ, Berlin, April 28–June 30, 2012. (Catalogue)
- 2011 *Lonely Are the Free*, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin, June 9–July 31, 2011.
- The Most Beautiful World in the World*, White Cube, London, April 15–June 4, 2011. (Catalogue)
- 2010 *Tropical Depression*, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, October 22–December 4, 2010.
- Oehmen Collection*, Kunstsaele, Berlin, October 8–November 5, 2010.
- I used to be darker, but then I got lighter and then I got dark again*, Kaikai Kiki Gallery, Tokyo
- Hammer Projects*, Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles,
- 2009 *Home wasn't built in a day*, Kunstverein Hannover, Germany
- Hello Walls*, BQ, Berlin
- 2008 *Emoh*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- Rising vs. Setting*, Aspen Art Museum, Colorado
- 2007 *Twilight*, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York
- Friedrich Kunath*, Kunsthaus NRW Kornelimünster, Aachen, Germany
- Warum*, BQ, Cologne, Germany
- 2006 *I have always been here before*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, March 4–April 8, 2006.
- 2005 *Friedrich Kunath*, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, October 14–December 3, 2005.
- 2004 *Our endless numbered days*, BQ, Cologne, Germany, September 4–October 16, 2004. (Catalogue)
- We were the one thing in the galaxy God didn't have his eyes on*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- 2003 *We are not as far west as we suppose we are*, The Bakery/Annet Gelink Gallery, Amsterdam
- 2002 *Mise en Scene: Curieux VI – When was the First Time You Realized the Next Time Would be the Last Time*, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany
- Welcome Home Steve Curry*, BQ, Cologne, Germany
- 2001 *Videos*, CHAUSSE 37, Berlin
- 2000 *One Day It Will All Make Sense*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, United Kingdom
- 1998 *Why Are My Friends Such Finks*, BQ, Cologne, Germany,
- 1968 First solo exhibit at Galerie Apollinaire, Milan, Italy

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

- 2026 *Goodbye Sadness, Hello Sadness*, Pace Gallery, Die Tankstelle, Berlin, July 4–August 23, 2026.
- On Paper*, Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin
- 2025 *A Certain Form of Hell*, Karma Gallery, Thomaston, Maine
- Softcore Summer*, John Wolf Art Advisory & Brokerage, Los Angeles
- Break Point*, Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin
- Remix: From Gerhard Richter to Katharina Grosse*, The Albertina Museum, Vienna
- Where Earth Meets Sky*, König Galerie, Munich
- Art Basel*, Hong Kong
- To Live is to Fly*, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- and yet: looking at contemporary art 1985-2025*, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel
- When painting is unveiled*, Galerie Loevenbruck, Paris
- L.A. Story*, Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles
- Metaphor to Metamorphosis*, König Galerie, Munich
- Hollywood Dream Bubble: Ed Ruscha's Influence in Los Angeles and Beyond*, The Hole, Los Angeles
- Come One, Come All*, Anthony Gallery, Chicago
- ONLY LOVERS LEFT: Margarete Jakschik and Friedrich Kunath*, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Germany
- Frieze Los Angeles*, Santa Monica Airport
- 2023 *The Milton and Sheila Fine Collection*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2022 *Let's Go!*, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- Come As You Are*, Anthony Gallery, Chicago

- New Editions*, Pace Prints, New York
- Stories We Live With: Selection from the Somló-Spengler Collection*, Q Contemporary, Budapest
- 2021 *The Emerald Tablet*, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles
- Shape of an Image*, Woaw Gallery, Hong Kong
- Parallel Worlds*, Nassima Landau, Tel Aviv, Israel
- Inaugural Exhibition*, König Galerie, Seoul
- 2020 *5,471 miles*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- Friend of Ours*, (organized by Benjamin Godsill and Joel Mesler), Rental Gallery, East Hampton, New York
- 36 Paintings*, Harper's East Hampton, New York
- Enjoy and Take Care!*, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2019 *Reflections*, Gana Art Gallery, Seoul
- Live Forever*, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- A New Age: Concerning the Spiritual in Art*, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel
- Some Trees*, (organized by Christian Malycha), Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles
- Die Rückkehr des Pre Bell Man*, Museum für Kommunikation Frankfurt
- Glenn Ligon: Selections from the Marciano Collection*, Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles
- The Last Waltz (For Leon)*, Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2018 *Under the Night Sky*, Albertz Benda, New York
- FOUR ROOMS*, Blum & Poe, New York
- LA Friends Part 1*, Rental Gallery, East Hampton, New York
- Cliché*, Almine Rech Gallery, New York
- This is a Pipe: Realism and the Found Object in Contemporary Art*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago
- 2017 *Form and Volume*, CFHILL, Stockholm
- Horror Vacui, or The Annihilation of Space*, Misako & Rosen, Tokyo
- 2016 *L.A. Exuberance: New Gifts by Artists*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Human Condition*, Los Angeles Metropolitan Medical Center
- Self-Fiction: David Altmejd & Friedrich Kunath*, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, the Netherlands
- Giles*, Gagosian Gallery, Athens
- Juxtapoz x Superflat, Pivot Art + Culture*, Seattle, Washington. Traveled to: Vancouver Art Gallery
- Mount Analogue, Performance Ski*, Aspen, Colorado
- PLEASE HAVE ENOUGH ACID IN THE DISH!*, M+B, Los Angeles
- Takashi Murakami's Superflat Collection: From Shōhaku and Rosanjin to Anselm Kiefer*, Yokohama Art Museum
- Tomorrow is a long time*, Tim van Laere Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2015 *If You Leave Me Can I Come Too?*, Hunter East Harlem Gallery, Hunter College, City University of New York
- The Avant-Garde Won't Give Up: Cobra and Its Legacy*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- My wife does the dishes, I do the revolution*, Kimmerich, Berlin
- Love or the Lack of It*, Travesía Cuatro, Madrid
- Oh, of course, you were berry picking*, Galerie Drei, Cologne, Germany
- Second Chances*, Aspen Art Museum, Colorado
- 2014 *FIRE!*, Venus Over Manhattan, New York
- New Image Painting*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago
- Lone Tree*, Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 2013 *À triple tour: oeuvres de la collection Pinault*, Centre des Monuments Nationaux, La Conciergerie, Paris
- The Hope of Wrecks*, Museum of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom
- Transforming the Known: Works from the Bert Kreuk Collection*, Gemeente Museum, Den Haag, the Netherlands
- More Young Americans*, L'Enclos des Bernardins, Hotel de Miramion, Paris
- Set Pieces*, Cardi Black Box, Milan
- 2012 *Wonderful-Humboldt, Krokodil & Polke*, Die Olbricht Collection, Me Collectors Room Berlin
- Funny*, FLAG Art Foundation, New York

- Other Voices, Other Rooms, Wenstrup Projects*, Copenhagen
- Schach Matt (Checkmate)*, Märkisches Museum Witten, Germany
- The Residue of Memory*, Aspen Art Museum, Colorado
- Orchestra Change*, Stiftung Schloss Dyck, Juechen, Germany
- Death Can Dance*, Townhouse, Zurich, Switzerland
- You Should've Heard Just What I Seen*, Riverview School, East Sandwich, Massachusetts
- 2011 *Gesamtkunstwerk*, Saatchi Gallery, London
- Collection Exhibition*, Berezdivin Collection-Espacio 1414, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- The Second Strike*, 3rd Herzliya Biennial of Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Israel
- MärklinWorld, Kunsthal KAdE*, Amersfoort, the Netherlands
- Deserteure*, Kunstpavillon, Innsbruck, Austria
- Il mondo vi appartiene (The World Belongs to You)*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice
- MIAC III Away from the Horde*, Miami-Dade Public Library System's, Miami BS-VISITE, Braunschweig, Germany
- Midnight Party*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Human Nature*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Captain Pamphile*, Deichtorhallen Museum, Hamburg, Germany
- Watercolour*, Tate, London
- Dwelling*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York
- 2010 *Captain Pamphile - nach einem Roman von Alexandre Dumas*, Städtische Galerie, Waldkraiburg, Germany
- Saw It, Loved It*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany
- Kupferstichkabinett: Between Thought and Action*, White Cube, London
- Country Music*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- Larger than Life - Stranger than Fiction*, Triennale Kleinplastik, Fellbach, Germany, June 12–October 11, 2010.
- Kurt*, Seattle Art Museum, Washington
- Also on View*, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York
- The Library of Babel: In and Out of Place*, Zabudowicz Collection, Projectspace 176, London
- 2009 *7 x 14*, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Germany
- 15th Anniversary Inaugural Exhibition*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- Grin & Bear It: Cruel Humor in Art and Life*, Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, Ireland
- Play*, Galleria Monica de Cardenas, Milan
- 2008 *Journeys to Nowhere: Selections from the Collection*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- The Eternal Flame*, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel
- Vertrautes Terrain. Aktuelle Kunst in/ über Deutschland*, ZKM Museum für Neue Kunst, Karlsruhe, Germany
- Life on Mars: the 55th Carnegie International*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Gravity in Art*, Telic Arts Exchange, Los Angeles
- Informed by Function*, Lehman College Art Gallery, City University of New York, Bronx
- The Leisure Suite*, The LeRoy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, New York
- 2007 *Verwendungsnachweis*, Museum MMK für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt
- Seb Koberstädt / Förderpreisträger 2006, Kunst aus Nordrhein-Westfalen*, Dusseldorf, Germany
- Blind Date*, Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome
- Dream and Trauma: Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection*, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna
- Learn to Read*, Tate, London
- 2006 *Spooky, Het Gebouw*, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- Esquidor en el fondo de un pozo*, La Colección Jumex, Mexico City
- Nothing But Pleasure*, BAWAG Foundation, Vienna
- Bonanza*, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York
- 2005 *Avalon Art Association*, Revelin Castle, Dubrovnik, Croatia
- The Gravity in Art*, De Appel, Amsterdam
- Looking at Words: The Formal Presence of Text in Modern and Contemporary Works on Paper*, Andrea Rosen

- Gallery, New York
Fabriques du Sublime, La Galerie - Centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-Le-Sec, France
 Exile: New York Is a Good Hotel, Broadway 1602, New York
- 2004 *No One Else Can Make Me Feel the Colors That You Bring*, Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, Dublin, Ireland
 Rings of Saturn, Rockwell Gallery, London
Strawberry Fields, Galeria CANAIA, Guadalajara, Mexico
Rhinegold: Art from Cologne, Tate Liverpool, United Kingdom
- 2003 *Inaugural Group Show*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles
- 2002 *On the Other Hand You Have Different Fingers*, Galerie Gait Nourbakhsh, Berlin
Present, Hammer Sidi, London
Superschloss, Städtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Germany
When was the first time when you realized the next time would be the last time, *Mise en scène: Curieux VI-VIII*, Bonner Kunstverein & Videonale, Bonn, Germany
- 2001 *1995–2001*, BQ, Cologne, Germany
Peter Mertes Stipendium with Thea Djordjadze, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany
Zero Gravity, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 2000 *One day it will all make sense*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Parking Meters, Cologne, Germany
Make My Paper Sound, Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany
- 1998 *Dirty Windows*, Berlin
Junge Kunst im Zweiten, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Germany
Why are my friends such finks, BQ, Cologne, Germany
- 1995 *Green Room*, San Diego, California
VOXXX-Galerie, Chemnitz, Germany
- 1994 *The easiest thing to grow in a garden is tired*, Galerie Peters-Barenbrock, Braunschweig, Germany

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Buntsockenpark, Thalheim, Germany
 Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Center for Early Education, Los Angeles
 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
 Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain
 DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens
 Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris
 Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, the Netherlands
 Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles
 Kunstverein Reutlingen, Germany
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art
 The Maurice and Paul Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles
 Marieluise Hessel Collection, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
 Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, California
 The Museum of Modern Art, New York
 Oketa Collection, Tokyo
 Pinault Collection, Paris

Sammlung Philara, Dusseldorf, Germany
V-A-C Collection, Moscow
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota