

RABE

2020



**discovery
art fair.**

Dear Readers,

the work of the artist RABE includes many aspects beyond the paintings, which we would like to outline and present to you in this format. Art can be enjoyed on many different levels, and so on the following pages we gather impressions from the direct environment of the works themselves, beginning with the sensual visual language of photography. In addition, you can expect quotes from art theorists, collectors, photographers and interested parties of RABE: an opportunity for several changes of perspective and new insights.

We thank you for your interest
and wish you great enjoyment while watching and reading.

Jonas Wolff on behalf of the RABE team

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JW', with a stylized, flowing script.



Ute Pröttel, Süddeutsche Zeitung Starnberg
Invitation to conscious vision: The day will be bitterly beautiful. As beautiful as Aurora in her classic flawlessness.
Or as indecisive? Crossed paths, tortuous roads, dark situations. The sublime moment of the morning mood is in
fascinating contrast to the figurative-multilayered work of art. It is painted intuitively, not created at this „locus amoenus“.
Where does it lead us?

Ana Bambić Kostov, art historian

Under abstract layers of color and freehand descriptions, RABE's paintings hide one of the most classical elements of all – a fascination with the human body. Peeling away the visual strata, the observer dives deep into the matter of painting, space where the essence of the artistic idea is married to the visual language.

Breaking away from his academic studies, RABE started pursuing this visual expression in 1989 when he embarked on a long studious trip to Italy. Fascinated by the early Renaissance painting, he studied classical composition, perspective, chiaroscuro and color from masters such as Titian. During this process, he started to incorporate contemporary, urban imagery into his classically designed works, and later



color, shape and form. Focused on female bodies, often nudes, RABE captures the "pure female energy" and connects it to the contemporary urban setting. His latest paintings are powerful portrayals of archetypal women, they celebrate the classical beauty of their bodies presented in an unequivocally contemporary manner.

In constant search for the essence of painting, RABE turned from studying the form to experiential creating. Releasing his inner energy from the world of pictorial ideas, he creates vibrant, energetically charged works in a natural painterly flow. His automatic process allows him to delve deeper into the meaning of the painting process and to embed it into the work, but his long classical training still shines through the glimpses of harmoniously shaped female bodies. This cathartic process marks his quest for inner beauty, its materialization and the ultimate, ecstatic representation of the human condition.

During the upcoming Discovery Art Fair in Frankfurt from 29oct -01nov 2020, RABE will present a selection of his works from the series "Berlin" and "Bilder über Frauen".



switched to acrylic from oil as his preferred technique. RABE felt the connection with Italian art strongly as it took both him and his family back from Munich to Rome, where he set up a studio in 2006.

True to classical realism in his early works, RABE experienced a profound artistic change around 2010. He abandoned realism and almost sculptural representation and gave way to the more spontaneous creative process. He allowed abstraction, street art and a little bit of chaos to enter his Renaissance-based composition, as he started to employ new techniques such as spray can. Thus, RABE achieved ultimate freedom of expression by having started painting in an academic manner, proving that personal artistic vision and deconstruction of classical rules lead to a recognizable, energetic style.

The new way of work led RABE to start a series of paintings in 2014 inspired by Berlin, his new place of residence. Moved by the inner energy, his impulsive painting flow resulted in works that reflect the energy and atmosphere of the city through



Bilder über Frauen XXXXII, 2020



Gerhard Schwengler, author and photographer

Colourful and urban. The spray can. Rabe's large pictures and the seemingly unlimited graffiti in public space can make contact. And yet: the apparent difference to Rabe's pictures cannot be greater: Highest aesthetic concentration on the rectangular canvas. Intimate, nervous, unmistakable. No stencil, no routine from the wrist. Rabe's painting defines, compresses, reflects. Stand up and win in the end will be his sensitive Unpredictability. He takes care of the human form and its face in the finest ramifications.



Alina Beck, photographer

Rabe's pictures show intimate and emotional moments, fused with strong colours and shapes. They are highly expressive in their creative style. By using melted paint and spray paint as design elements, the pictures get a modern, almost streetart-like look. Rabe manages to harmoniously combine the contrast between bright colours and calm, musical motifs. Since I find this bipolarity of calm and expressiveness particularly fascinating, I chose two extremely contrasting places to set the pictures in scene. Therefore, the first part of the route was taken at a quiet, deserted lake, while the second part was made in the industrial-urban area of Berlin. The collaboration with Rabe was especially interesting for me, because many of my photographs are also inspired by historical painters and their works. For me, photography is more than just a representation of reality. It enables me to portray hidden worlds, deep emotions, dreams and my surroundings in a subjectively staged way.



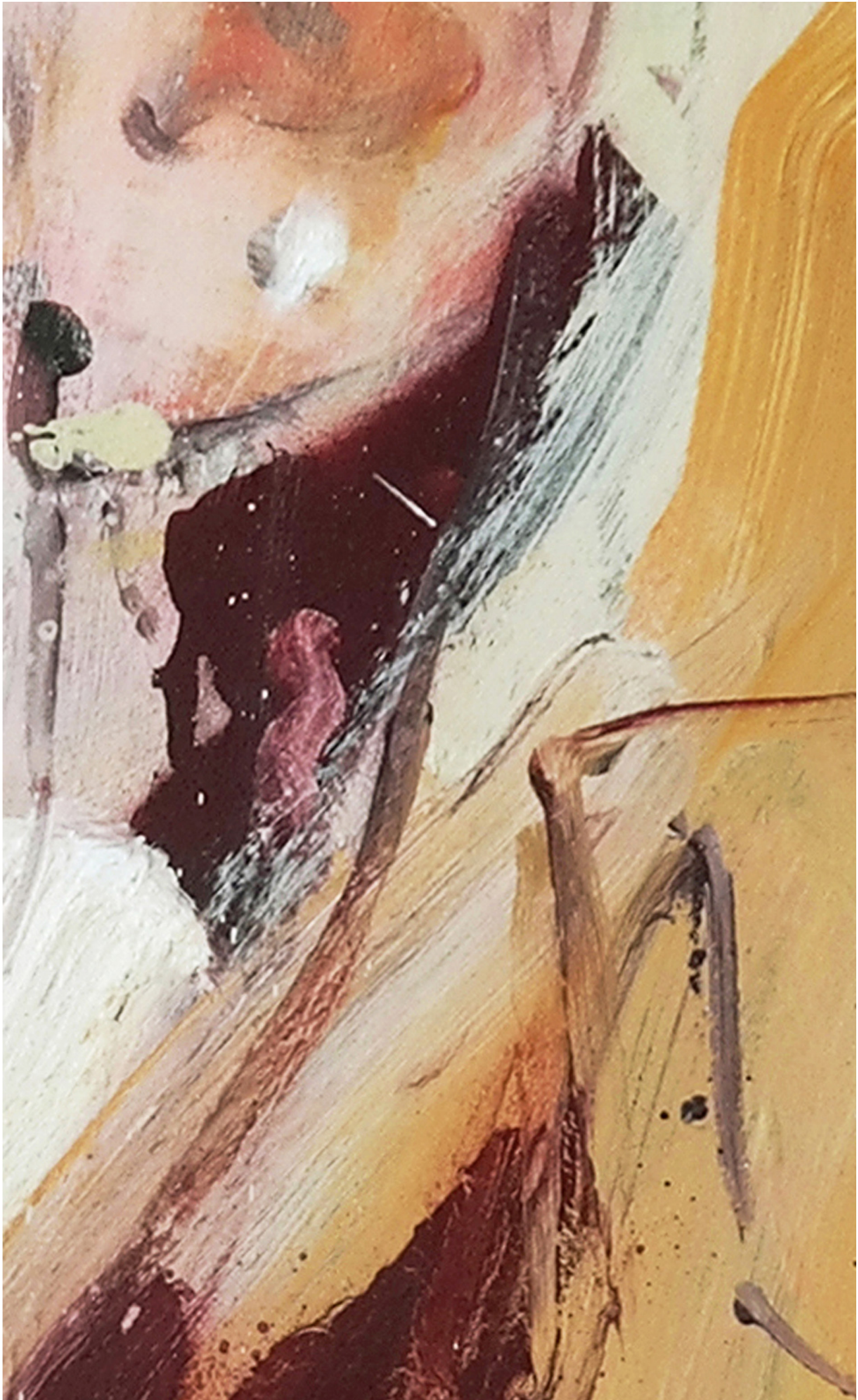
Who can explain what's really happening,
when life wants to appear in picturesque form?
When the unknown breaks through and surprisingly organizes itself into a pictorial form,
only to eventually become a whole or crash.
When the power of flowing colors dominates the scene, green to red to pink to green,
when a mute, enclosed surface calls for a luminous confusion,
which is visibly changing into the plastic line of a female breast.
When the visible and the invisible can no longer be distinguished.

Here the entire painterly potential plays in ever new mixtures:
from the tools of pictorial tradition to forms of expression that could never be imagined.
Sinking into the clear, bright sea of energy and its increasing movements
no one will ever ask: What? How? How? Why?

This painting does not happen in insisting on an idea of the self.
It comes from the source.

Rabe





Detailed view: Bath IV, 2019

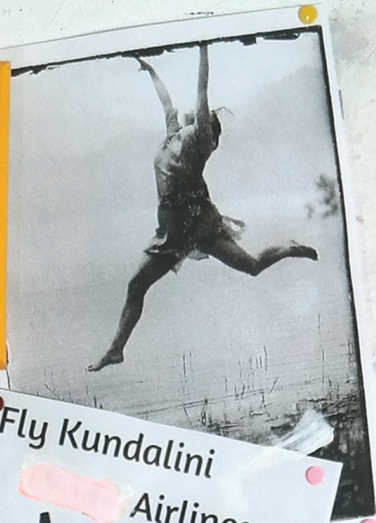
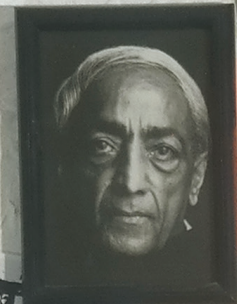


Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.
Lisa Cairns

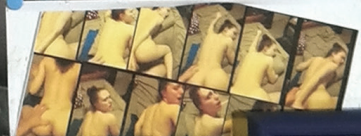
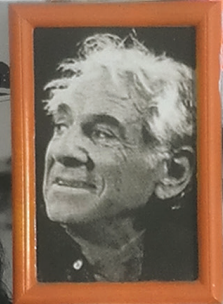
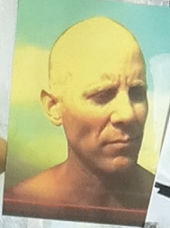


KONTEXT

at the studio



PAINTING
NOTHING
AS
SOMETHING



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#troubleinthecandystore #jiddu_krishnamurti #ichverpissmich #lisa_cairns #luftsprung
#feuerlöscher #emptyfullness #withoutanybelief #hands #benjamin_smythe #kundalini
#unknown #artephotto #leonard_bernstein #sleeping #young #nude #vicissitudini
#frédéric_chopin #svjatoslav_richter #raffael&nastassja #piero_della_francesca
#tiziano_pietà #andrej_tarkowskij #giada_mercuri_photography
#unwetter_in_novosibirsk #somewhere_in_america #crying_room #female_energy
#tod #fuckyou #nostalgia #richard_sylvester

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