

EN
Press release
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Monika Maurer-Morgenstern
Works from 5 Decades
October 31 – December 20, 2025

Events
Opening: Friday, October 31, 6–9 p.m.
Artist talk: to be announced

Press
For a preview of the exhibition
and press photos, please contact
the gallery.

Exhibition
Galerie Mountains is pleased to announce the
exhibition *Monika Maurer-Morgenstern*.
Works from 5 Decades.



Monika Maurer-Morgenstern has been working for decades on her own visual language, which brings together fragments of memory, mythical scenes, and everyday gestures in a delicate, color-nuanced register. Her sheets are both narrative and associative: figures appear, blur, and continue to write themselves; colors are layered over lines, as if image and writing were probing each other. A striking technical and formal decision is evident here: Maurer-Morgenstern uses both hands at the same time—she draws and writes simultaneously, left and right, often in such a way that one of the two handwritings runs in mirror image. The result is drawings in which lines and handwriting not only lie next to each other, but also through and into each other; writing traces and contours refer to two simultaneous strands of thought and action.

This double manual work is not mere showmanship. Rather, it is a tactile exploration process: the hand as a sensor, as a tracker. In such an approach, the focus shifts from mere representation to an experience of the processual—the sheet shows not only an image, but also the traces of its creation.

Many of her motifs initially arise from the unconscious—from what she herself once called “images of fear, dream images, or images of desire.” To give shape to these inner images, Maurer-Morgenstern often works with her eyes closed and using both hands. At this moment, it is less about control than about allowing, about opening up her inner perception. Only later does conscious vision come into play: she reworks her sheets, refines lines, and condenses forms. Thus, her works combine spontaneous creation and subsequent organization—a dialogue between intuition and reflection, between tentative beginnings and conscious decisions.

The exhibition focuses specifically on series of works that were all created in relation to other people—as pictorial correspondences, as approximations, as spaces of memory. On display are works that refer to Verena Stefan, with whom Maurer-Morgenstern was well acquainted in the 1990s; Stefan became a defining voice of her generation with her feminist novel *Häutungen* (1975). Another series is dedicated to the Belgian actor Frédéric Leidgens and finds its expression in the 48-part series *Ich fahre nach Paris* (I'm Going to Paris), in which the artist looks forward to visiting Leidgens, who was living in Paris at the time.

Alongside this are etchings on Pier Paolo Pasolini and Virginia Woolf—the latter inspired by reading the book *Virginia Woolf: The Impact of Sexual Abuse on Her Life and Work*. In all these cycles, personal encounters, artistic admiration, and inner reflection combine to create a polyphonic, deeply human resonance.

Short biography

Monika Maurer-Morgenstern, born in Leipzig in 1942, has lived in Berlin since 2012.

Even as a small child, she received intensive training in artistic practice at the Henriette Goldschmidt School in Leipzig. The family moved to the west, first to Stuttgart, then to Konstanz, where Maurer-Morgenstern graduated from high school in 1962. She studied at the University of Education in Esslingen, specializing in painting. She then worked as a teacher in Stuttgart until 1968. In 1968, she moved to Munich. From 1969, she intensified her artistic activities. In 1986, the Munich City Museum organized her first solo exhibition. Between 1989 and 2006, she received important inspiration from Leon Golub, Leiko Ikemura, Nancy Spero, and others at the International Summer Academy of Fine Arts in Salzburg.

Most recently, the Achim Freyer Foundation presented the artist in a solo exhibition entitled *Szenen auf Papier* (Scenes on Paper), curated by Johannes Odenthal and Sabine Bayer, at its premises in Berlin in 2025.

Works by Monika Maurer-Morgenstern can be found in the following collections: Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Berlinische Galerie, Stadtmuseum Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett Basel, museum kunstpalast Düsseldorf, Stadthistorisches Museum Leipzig, Staatliche graphische Sammlung München.

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