

Press Release

Georg Baselitz
Back Again
10 June – 30 August 2026
White Cube Bermondsey

White Cube presents one of the last exhibitions conceived by the late German artist Georg Baselitz (1938–2026) at Bermondsey, London, this June.

Titled 'Back Again' by the artist after one of his paintings, the presentation is now a poignant testament to Baselitz's drive to return, distil and resolve the motifs that consumed him during a career that spanned more than 60 years. Featuring his signature large-scale paintings and works on paper, the show brings together the subjects that defined Baselitz's practice, including the eagle, the figure of the Hero and his longtime muse, wife and partner, Elke Kretzschmar.

Elke is evoked in a series of multi-limbed figures, in which Baselitz suggests the sitter's energetic movement. Inspired by his project for the Salzburg Festival in summer 2025 – a restaging of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* (1918), for which he designed a suite of puppets and stage sets – these works recall the abrupt, angular physicality of externally controlled marionettes. Elsewhere, portraits of the artist and his wife appear against luminous sky-blue grounds or gold backdrops in reference to Willem de Kooning.

A motif reminiscent of Baselitz's youth in the Saxon countryside, the eagle – a source of inspiration throughout his career – also features in the artist's works on paper and paintings. Although Baselitz stated that the bird holds no programmatic meaning in his work, it is an emblem long associated with the German coat of arms and one of the oldest state symbols in Europe.

'Georg Baselitz: Back Again' is on view at White Cube Bermondsey from 10 June until 30 August 2026. It follows 'A Confession of My Sins' at White Cube Bermondsey (2024), 'Sofabilder / Sofa Pictures' at White Cube Hong Kong (2022), 'Darkness Goldness' at White Cube Mason's Yard (2020), 'Wir fahren aus (We're off)' at White Cube Bermondsey (2016), 'Georg Baselitz' at White Cube Hong Kong (2015), 'Georg Baselitz' at White Cube at Glyndebourne (2015) and 'Between Eagles and Pioneers' at White Cube Mason's Yard (2011).

The exhibition opens concurrently with 'Georg Baselitz: AVANTI!' at Museo Novecento, Florence, Italy (25 March – 13 September 2026), 'BASELITZ JETZT' at Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Mönchsberg, Salzburg, Austria (1 April – 18 October 2026), 'Georg Baselitz. Eroi d'Oro' at Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, Italy (6 May – 27 September 2026), and 'BASELITZ MANIFESTOS' at Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Old Town (Rupertinum), Salzburg, Austria (3 July – 4 October 2026).

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Notes to Editors:

- Georg Baselitz (1938–2026) lived and worked near Salzburg, Austria; at lake Ammersee, Germany; and Imperia, Italy. Throughout his career, he exhibited widely, including solo shows at Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, Italy (2026); Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria (2026); Museo Novecento, Florence, Italy (2026); Bilbao Museoa, Spain (2025); Munchmuseet, Oslo (2025); Sakip Sabanci Museum, Istanbul, Turkey (2024); Galleria degli Antichi, Sabbioneta, Italy (2024); Serpentine Galleries, London (2023); Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich, Germany (2023); Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany (2023); Peter Marino Art Foundation, Southampton, New York (2023); Kunstmuseum Schloss Derneburg, Germany (2023); Albertina, Vienna (2023); Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna (2023); Museo di Palazzo Grimani, Venice, Italy (2022); Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'Art Moderne, Paris (2021); Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia, Italy (2019); Fondation Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland, and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (2018); Städel Museum, Frankfurt, Germany, travelling to Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome; and Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain (2016–17); Haus der Kunst München, Germany (2014); Franz Marc Museum, Kochel am See, Germany (2014); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2011 and 1996); Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister der Staatlichen Kunstsammlung Dresden, Germany (2009); Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Germany (2009); Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donna Regina, Naples, Italy (2008); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2007); Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark (2006); and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, travelling to Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; and Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (1995–96). Significant group exhibitions include Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, travelling to Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany (2019–20); the 56th, 52nd and 39th Venice Biennale (2015, 2007 and 1980); British Museum, London (2014); Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1995, 1988 and 1985); Museum Ludwig / Rheinhallen, Cologne, Germany (1989); Royal Academy of Arts, London (1981); and Documenta 7 and 5, Kassel, Germany (1982 and 1972).
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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