

Walter Dahn

September 10 – October 24, 2026

Public Reception: Thursday, September 10, 6–9pm

Sprüth Magers, Berlin

In the 1980s, Walter Dahn first gained recognition in Cologne as a pioneer of the “Bad” Painting movement and as a founding member of the Mühlheimer Freiheit, a group of neo-expressionist artists known for their rebellious, punk-inflected attitude. During this period, Dahn’s practice centered on a critical reassessment of painting as a medium. Incorporating references to contemporary music and popular culture, his works evoke a broad array of associations, prompting existential and historical questions that aim at deconstructing the visual ideologies of everyday life. Sprüth Magers is pleased to present a survey exhibition of Dahn’s work on the occasion of Berlin Art Week. The first show since his passing in 2024, the presentation offers a renewed look at his practice.

Walter Dahn (1954–2024) lived and worked in Cologne. Selected solo exhibitions include Haus Mödrath, Kerpen (2024), Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover (2019), Kunstmuseum Basel (2017), Kunstverein Sankt Pauli, Hamburg (2007), Kunstverein Krefeld (2005), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1997), Kunsthalle zu Kiel (1994), Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven and Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel (both 1989), Museum Folkwang, Essen, Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld and Kunstmuseum Hannover (all 1986) and Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn (1985). Recent group exhibitions include Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (2024), Kunstmuseum Bonn (2022), Kunsthalle Mannheim (2021), Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin and Von der Heydt Museum, Wuppertal (both 2020).

For more info and press inquiries, please contact Silvia Baltschun (sb@spruethmagers.com).

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Walter Dahn, 1987
Photo: Ali Ritter