

## Malte Zenses Solingen, 1987

Lives and works in Berlin.

With ironic nonchalance, Malte Zenses' paintings and sculptures expand the vocabulary of abstract painting and new realism by incisively integrating the zeitgeist through autobiographical fragments. His inspiration often arises from a memory, a place, or a fleeting image. Rather than narrating himself directly, he conceals personal references within a system of signs, symbols, and texts that invite interpretation.

Far from imposing a fixed narrative, Zenses creates a space where viewers activate their own memories. In this way, his work becomes a diffuse mirror of the present—shaped by the interplay between the digital and the analog, between visual saturation and the search for meaning. His practice is a constant movement across formats, channeling the collective through personal experience. Each piece becomes a visual translation of the everyday—a way of recycling the world into code.

Malte Zenses was born in 1987 in Solingen and lives and works in Berlin, Germany. He studied in Düsseldorf and Frankfurt. Throughout his career, he has surrounded his work and his imaginary with many other disciplines in a collaborative way, through personal and professional relationships he has developed with musicians, tattoo artists, photographers, writers, scientists, and other members of one of the world's most active cultural ecosystems in the German capital.

His work evolves rapidly, adapting to the vertiginousness of contemporary life. He mimics establishing formal, conceptual and material links with the sites where Zenses develops his research and projects, among which stand out, above all, presentations in Germany at the G2 Kunsthalle Leipzig, Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz and an experimental project he carried out with the Valentino haute couture house, in which he developed a series of garments in dialogue with his pictorial work.

During 2025, Zenses executed a three-part project based on a four-month research in Mexico City. During this time, his language found new stimuli in a city of enormous complexity. The result of his experience and the affective networks he developed in the capital of our country was a trio of exhibitions of "Mexican paintings" that were presented at Pequod, Sperling and LISTE in a period of 4 months. This series of exhibitions opened up a new strand in the never-ending conversation about painting, and its role as an ambassador between seemingly opposing regions that have built bridges and exchanges with each other throughout history.

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### STUDIES

HfG Offenbach am Main, Germany, Prof. Wolfgang Luy and Prof. Susanne Winterling

Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, Germany, Prof. Andreas Schulze

### SOLO SHOWS

#### 2025

*Durchhalten galore! Pinturas para perros Pt.2*, Pequod Co., Mexico City, Mexico,

*Pinturas para perros. Durchhalten galore! Pt.1*, Pequod Co., Mexico City, Mexico

#### 2024

*ALTE EICHEN, NEUE BILDER*, G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig, Germany

#### 2023

*Fetztage in der Villa*, Sperling, Munich, Germany

*Im Kugelblitz (Teil II)*, JVDW, Düsseldorf, Germany

*Im Kugelblitz (Teil I)*, Kunstverein Heppenheim, Germany

#### 2020

*Im Regio 3, totslr Verwirrung*, Sperling, Munich, Germany

#### 2019

*Various Others: Augustas Serapinas & Malte Zenses*, Sperling, Munich, Germany

#### 2018

*Have you heard about der Traum ist aus*, Damien & The Love Guru, Brussels, Bélgica

#### 2017

*IN TYRANNIS*, Kunsverein Nuremberg, Germany

*pay for rituals*, con Felix Kultau, Fiebach Minninger, Cologne, Germany

*ABER*, Salon Kennedy, Frankfurt a. M. Germany

#### 2016

*Lips*, Studio Picknick, Berlin, Germany

#### 2015

*Pais*, Krikrika & Fofi, Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf, Germany

## GROUP SHOWS

2025

*QUELLO CHE VEDETE NON È NÉ CIBO, NÉ ARTE*, curated by Matteo Scabeni Galleria Gaburro, Milano, Italy

2024

*Seymour*, Max-Joseph Str. 7, Munich, Germany

*Two To Tango (3)*, Sperling, Munich, Germany

2023

*New Acquisitions II*, G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig, Germany

*Bite the Hand*, Grove, London, United Kingdom

2022

*present perfect*, Kunstsammlung Chemnitz, Germany

*Identität nicht nachgewiesen*, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany

*Grassroots*, JVDW, Düsseldorf, Germany

2021

*Valentino Des Ateliers*. Haute couture Fall/Winter, Gaggiandre, Arsenale, Venice, Italy

*Gropshow X*, Backyard Ehrenfeld, Cologne, Germany

2020

*Four Little Stories*, curated by Maria Chiara Valacchi Studiolo, Milano, Italy

*Future Forms Fiction*, SchauFenster, Berlin, Germany

2019

*Dusk and Dawn look justo the same*, PIK, Cologne, Germany

*on THE-NAME-OF-THE-FIGURE in painting*, Studiopicknick, Berlin, Germany

2018

*bataillon d'amour*, Galerie Kleindienst, Leipzig, Germany

*Cheated Eyes, Seeing Tongues*, Studiopicknick, Berlin, Germany

*UNLUST PRINZIP*, Kasseler Kunstverein, Germany

*Goodhopehouse*, Galerie Kenilwortg, Milwaukee, USA

*High Ends*, Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Germany

2017

*Preshowritual*, Friedrich, Frankfurt a. M., Germany

*quality of cuties*, Just Married One, Osaka, Japan

NOS. 66,7%, Kunstverein Wiesen, Germany

*representative, representative*, Rod Barton, London, United Kingdom

## 2016

*Scale, Scale, Scale / Run to the Hills*, Kressmann Halle, Offenbach am Main, Germany

## 2015

*Habt ihr Bock auf Ibiza? (die neue offenbacher schule #4)*, Ruttowski 68, Cologne, Germany

*Driveway 327*, 327 5th Ave, Los Angeles, USA

## 2014

*Erdloch verschluckt Kleinwagen (die neue offenbacher schule #3)*, M35, Lucerne, Switzerland

## PERFORMANCE

## 2024

Jutta un die Chaos Kadetts, G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig, Germany

## RESIDENCIES

## 2024

Residencia entre Naucalpan y Mexico City, Mexico

## 2022

BLANK100 Residency, Craveiral, São Teotónio, Portugal

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

## 2023

Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bonn, Germany

## 2017

Marianne Defet Painting Scholarship, Nuremberg, Germany

## COLLECTIONS

Bundeskunstsammlung, Germany

Kunstsammlung, NRW, Germany

Sammlung LBBW, Stuttgart, Germany

Sammlung Hildebrand, Leipzig, Germany

Art Collection Valentino, Italy

Monika Schnetkamp, Germany

## PRESS (selection) AND PUBLICATIONS

Adnan Yildiz, Misal y Patrizia Dander. Durchhalten galore! Pinturas para perros. Sperling, Munich, 2025

Giacobini, Alessandra. "In conversation with Malte Zenses." émergent magazine. Durchhalten galore! Pinturas para perros, Mexico City, 2025

"Volume III, Christina Lehnert & Malte Zenses." Sperling's Online Magazine, 2021

Lehnert, Christina ed. Malte Zenses. Lubok Verlag, Leipzig, 2021

Grebe, Judith, Joshua Groß y Anke Schlecht eds. In tyrannis. Nuremberg, 2018

Zenses, Malte. ABER. Salon Kennedy, Frankfurt a. M., 2017

## LECTURES

### 2022

Malte Zenses, 12" Vinyl EP, EP Release, JUBG, Cologne, Germany

### 2019

Diverse Privilegien, Westfaelischer Kunstverein, Muenster, Germany