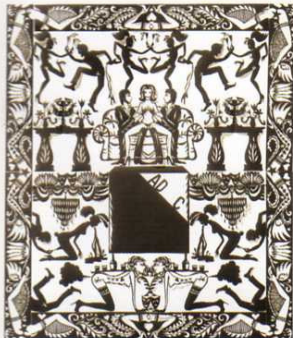


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Basel

a Mekka for the arts in the heart of Europe



A sunny day, a stroll through the streets and then further along the beautiful and colourful promenade of the Rhine – as a visitor to this city you can virtually feel the atmosphere full of muse and artistic flair.

It cannot be denied: situated on the famous "Dreiländereck" where Switzerland, France and Germany meet, Basle represents the art capital of the country. With nearly 40 museums, numerous exhibition rooms and art galleries there is no other European city offering a comparable density of first-class museums and art. The Museum of Fine Arts, History Museum, Beyeler Foundation-Museum are internationally acclaimed institutions. Last year the city had the opportunity to host the world famous exhibition of "Tutanchamun - The Golden Beyond".

Basel's wealth of contemporary art is even more spoiled by the annual international art show "Art Basel", unique for the high quality and unparalleled variety of 20th and 21st century works on display. With over 5'000 works by 1,500 artists every year; Art Basel reunites 50'000 art collectors, art dealers, artists, curators, journalists and art lovers.

Basel is alive and kicking – and a first address for the entire scale of enriching, entertaining and moving arts and culture.

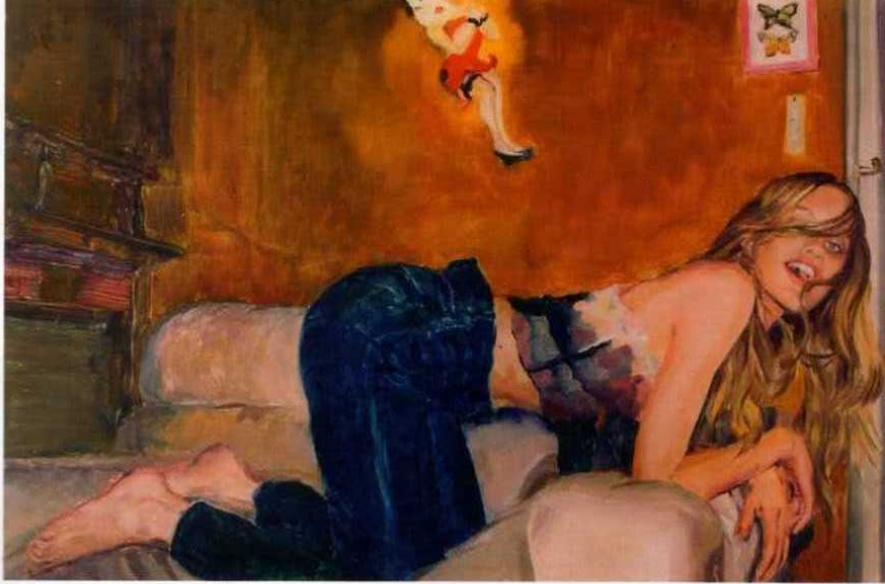
Leonhard Ruethmüller | Contemporary Art

In 2004, the gallery and showroom for contemporary art celebrated its 15th anniversary. Located in the centre of Basel, the owner and art dealer Matthias Rüthmüller offers a platform for exhibitions and art trade, with focus on top class international artists of contemporary art.

The show room by the market square unites city office and presentation room; with its large window functioning as communication tool. Colour, light and video projections individually created for each exhibition and presented through the window, attract and immediately involve the public.

Since its foundation, Leonhard Ruethmüller | Contemporary Art has been presenting young and international contemporary art.

The recent years of recession throughout the art market did not influence or break the gallery's existence and spirit, and the presentation of renowned artists continued: Not Vital, Qin Yufen, Valery Koshlyakov, Kaeseberg, Oleg Kulik, Jürgen Möbius are only some of the prestigious artists who belong to the gallery's "regulars", underlining and confirming a progressive, innovative and successful course on the complex and vast market of contemporary art.

**Irina Polin**

Exhibition March 12th to May 13th 2005

Opening times: Wednesday to Friday	16.00 to 18.30
Saturday	11.00 to 16.00

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paper or pages of magazines with scalpel and scissors.

The results are amazing: figures and objects coming to life with shadows and silhouettes depicting the essence of figurative art. This classical work method, however, is not to be understood as the pictorial presentation of traditional cultures and beliefs: even though scissor cuts find their origins in ethnic contexts – as in the Bern Region in Switzerland, Irina Polin's works do not comprise the intention to do so.

The depiction and expression of her works find its roots in a mere picturesque, artistic and creative language. This freedom of artistic expression and the variety of definitions and meanings correspond to the

young Russian artist's style and philosophy.

Irina Polin does not like to be related to a specific artistic medium – when creating pieces of art, she always chooses the tools and methods which allow best to realize her concepts – being photography, paintings or scissor cuts.

Her works combine playful elements, in polar, symmetric or even opposing arrangements. Erotic elements introduce a sensual, provoking or shocking touch that allow us to discover Polin's world.