

Press release | 24 July 2025

Open Printing Workshop and Exhibition at the Kunsthau Ham- burg on the Occasion of the *griffelkunst* Anniversary

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Griffelkunst-Vereinigung Hamburg e. V. the Kunsthau Hamburg is organizing a special participatory project entitled *Printer's Proof – 100 Years of griffelkunst* from 30 August to 14 September: visitors can print three motifs specially created for the occasion by internationally renowned artists Thomas Bayrle, Martin Boyce and Nadira Husain and thus become the owner of an artwork.



Motif by Nadira Husain: *The Haunted Museum, Extension*, 2025, Courtesy the artist

The Griffelkunst-Vereinigung Hamburg is globally unique. As a non-profit art association, it has been publishing editions of original graphic artworks, photography and multiples by renowned artists since 1925 and makes them available to its 4,500 members throughout Germany. To honour the *griffelkunst's* commitment to visual arts in the city, the Kunsthau Hamburg is organizing a special participatory project. In cooperation with the printing workshops at HAW Hamburg under the direction of Professor Ellen Sturm, the exhibition hall will be transformed into an **open printing workshop** for a fortnight.

The renowned artists **Thomas Bayrle, Martin Boyce and Nadira Husain** have been invited by the Kunsthau Hamburg to design motifs specifically for this occasion. On Thursday to Sunday from 3 pm, visitors will be able to learn about and try out the traditional technique of woodblock printing at the Kunsthau. They will have the opportunity to transfer these motifs to paper themselves under the guidance of experts and thus become the owner of their personal print. The newly created works will remain on site for the duration of the project to become part of the exhibition. As a result, the entire printing process along with the graphical versatility of the medium is rendered visible. At the finissage on Sunday, 14 September, visitors will be able to pick up their own print free of charge.

The motifs of Thomas Bayrle, Martin Boyce and Nadira Husain revolve around communication and connectivity – aspects that are fundamental to the work of both the Kunsthau and *griffelkunst*. Based on his many years of exploring various forms of locomotion, Thomas Bayrle has

chosen a depiction of a complex, intertwined road network reduced to simple lines. Nadira Husain has woven symbols from different cultures into a complex composition: she made the iconic figure of Nefertiti wandering a post-migrant world the centre of her motif. A dense network of references also underlies Martin Boyce's practice. His work is based on a self-developed typography whose edged letters are reminiscent of carved names or small messages on tables, benches and in trees.

The open printing workshop will be complemented by an **exhibition of *griffelkunst* works**: Hamburg artists have been invited to present their favourite pieces from their personal *griffelkunst* collections at the Kunsthaus Hamburg for the duration of the project. Some of the lenders have themselves previously created editions for *griffelkunst*. On display will be works by Sigmar Polke, Marcel Broodthaers, Monika Michalko and Dieter Roth from the collections of Stefan Marx, Gisela Bullacher, Ellen Sturm and Thomas Baldischwyler, among others. Based on these, the exhibition will provide an intimate insight into the collecting practices of those involved. At the same time, it will offer an impressive overview of *griffelkunst*'s many years of work, which contributes significantly to the democratization of art and, likewise, to promoting artists and the medium of printmaking. As one of four associates of the Kunsthaus Hamburg gGmbH, the association has also maintained a close relationship with the institution for over 20 years.

Admission to the Kunsthaus Hamburg will be free for the duration of the project. Opening hours will be extended into the evening on Thursdays and Fridays.

Printer's Proof**100 Years of *griffelkunst*****30 August – 14. September 2025****Special opening hours**

Thursday and Friday, 11 am–8 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–6 pm

Closed on Mondays

Open printing workshop

Thursday to Sunday, from 3 pm

Opening

Friday, 29 August 2025, 7 pm

Finissage and collection of prints

Sunday, 14 September 2025, 3–6 pm

The project *Printer's Proof – 100 Years of *griffelkunst** is realized in close cooperation with



Preview and interview appointments can be arranged upon request.

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