

Pathos und Pastos

Christopher Lehmpfuhl in the Würth Collection

Art Forum Würth Capena

16.09.2024 – 30.4.2026



Christopher Lehmpfuhl, Patches of Sunlight, 2016

Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 cm

Würth coll., Inv. 17374

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From 16 September 2024 to 30 April 2026, the Art Forum Würth Capena presents 'Pathos und Pastos. Christopher Lehmpfuhl in the Würth Collection'. This will be the first solo exhibition in Italy by Christopher Lehmpfuhl (Berlin, 1972).

Pathos und Pastos (pathos and impasto) brings together **more than 40 works**, mostly belonging to the Würth Collection, as well as some paintings owned by the artist himself. This broad selection provides visitors with a key to some of the most significant series of his work, including his sculpture-like urban representations and the luminous natural landscapes of his travels in different parts of the world (India, Iceland, Italy).

To explore Lehmpfuhl's work is to embark on a journey through the history of painting. His works have a dual source of inspiration: on the one hand, Impressionism, with its immersive approach to landscape – Lehmpfuhl is a dedicated *en plein air* painter – of which he tries to capture the ephemerality of light in the open air, regardless of weather conditions; on the other hand, Expressionism, which permeates his works with personality and moods, transforming the spaces of the canvas into manifestations of interiority rather than objective locations.

Each of Lehmpfuhl's creations contains litres of thick creamy paint, lumps of matter spread by hand in a masterful, organic execution. This significant gesture brings an enormous lyricism to his canvases that appeal to the emotions to the point of shaking the beholder. Hence the reference in the title of

the exhibition to *Pathos*, used by Aristotle to designate one of the three pillars of persuasion: in this case, the way a work of art influences the viewer, moves him and questions him. It is this great ability to communicate that fascinated Prof. Dr. h. C. mult Reinhold Würth, who has been a major collector of the artist's work for years.

In the selection of works on display, **travel paintings** coexist with **urban landscapes** (among the most famous are those centred on his native Berlin, an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the artist).

Weather conditions are an essential part of his work and influence both the material and the painter. Far from a postcard idyll, Lehmpfuhl records changes in public spaces during construction activities: construction cranes and ruins loom large in his work. For decades, he has captured emblematic locations such as **Berlin Castle** on canvas, creating works that show a situation while conveying a feeling.

The exhibition also features a selection of works from his *Neue Heimat* cycle, on loan from the artist's personal collection. This cycle, charged with memory and personal significance, represents the process of grieving over the death of his parents. It differs significantly from the other works in that it was created in black and white, painted in the studio with a paintbrush, and based on photographs of his father.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Swiridoff with a preface by C. Sylvia Weber, director of the Würth Collection, essays by Thomas Gädeke, Susanne Zargar Swiridoff and Kirsten Fiege and a contribution by the artist.

Free Entrance

Public opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday and Sunday open for events and creative workshops

Holidays closed

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