

ELVIRA BACH

75 - BIRTHDAY RECEPTION

22 June, 2026, 5 p.m.

Welcome Address: **Dr. Wolfram Weimer**, Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor and Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM)

With her 75th birthday this year, Elvira Bach celebrates not only a personal milestone but also an extraordinary body of work that has left a lasting mark on contemporary German art for more than four decades. As one of the most distinctive voices associated with the "Neue Wilde" movement, she has developed a visual language that remains defined by expressive color, profound emotional intensity, and uncompromising authenticity.

Born in 1951 and educated at the Berlin University of the Arts, Elvira Bach established an artistic vision early on that defied convention. While many of her male contemporaries shaped the emergence of the young Berlin painting scene, she forged an independent perspective that placed women at its center—as confident, creative, and multifaceted individuals. Her monumental self-portraits, portraits, and allegorical works speak of strength and vulnerability, sensuality and everyday life, motherhood, love, labor, and identity, always rooted in deeply personal experience while resonating on a universal level.

Her international breakthrough came in the early 1980s with her participation in *documenta* 7. Since then, her work has been represented in museums and collections both in Germany and abroad and has been celebrated in numerous exhibitions. Throughout her career, she has remained committed to figurative painting, combining expressive brushwork with luminous color and a highly distinctive symbolic vocabulary. Extensive travels and prolonged stays abroad—particularly in Senegal—broadened her artistic horizons and enriched her oeuvre with new motifs and cultural influences, while never diminishing the unmistakable character of her personal style.

A particularly significant chapter of recent decades has been her collaboration with Galerie Deschler in Berlin. Since the late 1990s, the gallery has accompanied Elvira Bach's artistic development through numerous solo and group exhibitions, playing a decisive role in maintaining the visibility of her work within the broader history of Berlin painting. Early exhibitions such as "Küchendiven" (1997) and "New Works" (1999) already reflected the mutual trust between artist and gallery, a relationship that continued to deepen over the years. Later presentations—including the widely acclaimed exhibition "The Other Eve: 1979 to the Present," organized in 2021 to mark her 70th birthday—demonstrated with remarkable clarity the consistency of Bach's artistic path and her enduring relevance across generations. The gallery has not merely exhibited her work but has continually placed it in dialogue with other influential positions within Berlin's artistic landscape, offering fresh perspectives on her place in art history.

This longstanding partnership stands as an exemplary collaboration founded on mutual respect and a shared belief in the enduring power of painting. It has helped make Elvira Bach's work accessible not only to longtime collectors but also to younger audiences, while repeatedly situating her practice within evolving art-historical debates and contemporary critical discourse.

On the occasion of her 75th birthday, our gaze turns not only to an impressive career but also toward a body of work that has lost none of its vitality. Elvira Bach is an artist who has never followed passing fashions, remaining steadfastly true to her own vision. Her paintings are affirmations of freedom, independence, and the creative energy of the human spirit—and it is precisely in this unwavering commitment that their lasting significance resides. Today, we celebrate a painter whose powerful visual world has, for decades, been distinguished by exceptional clarity and intensity. May curiosity, creative vitality, and passion continue to accompany her in the years ahead, inspiring both her and all those who encounter her remarkable work.