



Foto: Choreo

MARIA LEGAT

GALERIE3 | G12

Maria Legat currently holds a residency at the Cité Internationale Des Arts in Paris. Accordingly, the presentation in Düsseldorf primarily focuses on her most recent works, created during this residency in Paris.

GALERIE3 Wien presented Legat in summer 2025 in a major solo exhibition – WIDER UND – as well as at viennacontemporary 2025 and in a solo presentation at SPARK Art Fair 2024. Her first museum solo exhibition will take place this autumn.

Legat never makes things easy for herself in her artistic practice; she doubts and struggles, climbs ladders countless times, and at times experiences her painting process as a physical challenge and as a necessity – something she cannot avoid. Since she applies her charcoal drawings directly onto the canvas without any preliminary sketches, this artistic act is often preceded by a process of decision-making, which can be quite time-consuming. Before she begins, Legat immerses herself deeply in books, often engaging with current conflicts and contemporary events. She lives almost entirely offline, keeping away from social media, yet all the more intensely engaging with literature, painting, and contemporary challenges. This openness is subsequently reflected in her large-scale paintings, in the tensions that are inherent to her distinctive and unmistakable style.

Legat's works reflect socio-political challenges and are always part of a series: *Und zur Lage der Welt* (And on the state of the world) once turned into *Jonglage* (juggling), and *Jonglage* then became *Widerstand* (resistance). Conflicts remain palpable; her painting increasingly moves between figuration and abstraction, and we, the viewers, remain a central element in completing her complex statements. Now a new chapter begins: *Hoffnung* (hope). The artist currently describes her work as eco-feministic.

Maria Legat (*1980 in Carinthia), studied "Contextual Painting" at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna under Ashley Hans Scheirl, as well as "Expanded Pictorial Space" under Daniel Richter. She completed her studies in 2018. Legat has already received several awards, including the Förderpreis of the State of Carinthia for Fine Arts in 2020, the Recognition Award of the State of Lower Austria in 2022, and the Austrian State Scholarship for Fine Arts. She has exhibited internationally and institutionally, including in Lisbon and Brussels, staged a project in a church in her home community, and created a 10-meter canvas for the Kunstverein Salzburg. In autumn 2025, large-scale works by her were shown at the Graz BRUSEUM – where a museum solo exhibition will follow later this year. She is currently part of the exhibition *ANIMALIA*; Heidi Horten Collection (Vienna), as well as *Im erweiterten Raum*; STRABAG ART and Künstlerhaus Vereinigung (Vienna).