

Press release

ROLF BEHM

BEATRICE

Painting in mixed media
and spray colors

September 15 to October 29, 2022

Preview: September 14, 2022, 7 to 9 pm

The artist is present

SPECIAL EVENT

READING WITH BEATE MARIA SCHULZ

SAMUEL BECKETT

DANTE AND THE LOBSTER

Friday, October 16, 7 pm

**Goethestraße 2-3,
10623 Berlin Charlottenburg**



Courtesy: The artist and Galerie Bernet Bertram,
Bice - Kaa - Konterfei 1, 2022.

Galerie Bernet Bertram is pleased to draw your attention to the exhibition of new works by Rolf Behm. Inspired by Dante's *Divine Comedy* and its famous Beatrice, the artist portrays the multifaceted, elusive female figure in abstract variations. In doing so, he continues his engagement with Dante, which began with an exhibition series of the gallery in 2021.

In his abstractions, Rolf Behm brings out Beatrice's serious as well as comic sides. Seductress, friend, and unattainable lover, she is tantamount to a shrewd and commanding female institution in the *Commedia*. But what in Dante leads to pure contemplation (contemplatio) becomes in Rolf Behm a joyful painterly appropriation. In addition to all the well-known truth and poetry, eye shapes and gazes are the focus of the images. Some motifs approach the world of comics. Captions refer to Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* and the rotating eyes of the snake Kaa.

By using spray paints across the full range of colors, the artist exploits additional possibilities of depicting transparency and luminosity as well as the misty veils with which Beatrice appears. The names of the sometimes exotic shades are part of the picture titles: raspberry red, teen spirit, bonbon (candy), sorbet green, flame blue, malachite, shrimp. Behm sets these young and fresh tones in contrast to the mixed tones of the oil and acrylic paints, uses them as the last step in the coloring or simply as a bright, luminous background. A typical feature of Rolf Behm's painting.

13 colorful exhibits in various sizes illustrate the relevance and diversity of Beatrice's subject, which is always to be explored in new ways.

Dante the Traveler
Films accompanying the exhibition

Film sequences with actors like Christopher Nell, Patrick Güldenbergr, Friedhelm Ptok, Arnim Beutel including excerpts from Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Produced by GBB and directed by: Christian Bertram



Dante (Patrick Güldenbergr) goes through fire for Beatrice. Video still: Gallery Bernet Bertram

Rolf Behm, born in 1952, studied at the Karlsruhe Art Academy, e.g. with Prof. Markus Lüpertz. In 1977/78 he received the DAAD scholarship in London and in 1984/85 the Villa Romana scholarship in Florence. In 2019, Behm was invited to work at the International Residency of Arts Further On Air in Long Island (U.S.). His works have been shown at home and abroad since the 1970s. He is also represented in numerous collections, such as the Würth Collection, Ernst & Young, Essen, the Kunsthalle Mannheim and many more. Rolf Behm lives and works in Berlin and Rio de Janeiro.

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**Special opening hours for the Berlin Art Week September 15 – 18,
Sunday, September 18, 12 to 6 pm**