

# Funktionslust <sup>[English]</sup>

Movement for the sake of movement; creation for the sake of creation. The term 'funktionslust' captures the idea of doing what one is meant to do and finding joy and satisfaction in it. It's a form of creativity that lies more in the act of searching than finding. This German term refers to the performance of, and pleasure in, an action that is intrinsic to the doer — human or animal. Humans create, and always will, but artists devote their lives to it, becoming exceptionally skilled in the process. Through their creations, they seek new forms, meanings, and meaning-makers. This is the essence of the artist, the creator, the maker - the homo ludens, the playing human. Just as with play, the act of creation is a goal in itself. The focus is not on the product, but on the process. Artists stand out not only through their varied, innovative and emotionally resonant visual languages, but also because they shape the world. They are a crucial yet often undervalued building block of our society. Ideally, artists remain independent of economic and aesthetic systems, and public opinion. In such cases, 'funktionslust' becomes — consciously or unconsciously — the driving force. The artist then works for themselves, without commercial or other external aims. Profit can follow, but cannot be the reason a work exists.

Even if not the main goal, the work will reach people's hearts and minds. They may even change their feelings, thoughts and opinions. The *raison d'être* of a work of art, and the first thing a work of art should spark the spectator's imagination, and with that, their emotion. Once these are activated, the rest will follow.

Funktionslust is an ode to this act of creating: *creare pro creando*, or *l'art pour l'art* — the 19th-century French slogan that promotes art that exists for its own sake. This does not mean the work is without meaning — far from it. On the one hand, the meaning lies within the work itself; it is self-referential. On the other, embedded within the work -openly or subtly- are the stories closest to the maker. This is made possible by the freedom Funktionslust offers.

This exhibition is a tribute to the artists themselves. In his curatorial practice, Samuel Pennynck seeks to highlight and support artists who are deeply connected to the primordial mode of creating: the maker who creates and plays for the sake of creation itself. The selected artists and their work are therefore sincere and enduring. They do what they do because it is the right thing for them to do.

Samuel Pennynck,  
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