

Raphael Reift



Always look on the bright side of life, 2023
Mixed media on paper
21 x 15 cm

Artist statement

My daily painting practice is an exploration of the unconscious. In a state of flow, I let go and let things happen. I strive to rediscover childlike curiosity, almost like an archaeology of childhood. I am fascinated by children's drawings and aim to surprise myself with each drawing, with each painting. I never know what will come out of it or what I am doing while painting. I work in layers. Sometimes they are preliminary sketches or geometric shapes, doodles, experiments with colors and various materials that intuitively come together and complement each other. Thematically, I continually try to balance chaos and harmony. The expression oscillates between meticulous brushwork and a freer, more expressive style. A perfectionistic urge compels me to break free from my own limitations time and again.

I am fascinated by Art Brut and Outsider Art, but also by artists such as Karel Appel, Joan Miró, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Klee. I find titles through association. Standing in front of the finished painting, I try to find a title that suits me. It could be a line from a self-written poem or a pop culture reference. The paintings should speak for themselves even without titles. The titles open an additional dimension of meaning.

Raphael Reift, born in 1987 in Bern, is a self-taught artist and is listed and introduced as such in the exhibition publication for the exhibition „Jenseits aller Regeln“ (2021) at the Thurgau Art Museum. In 2022, Reift received the Art Promotion Award from the Lions Club Central Switzerland.

Exhibitions

- Format K (inclusive art project), alte Bibliothek, Münchenbuchsee
- 2024 ETERNAL ELEMENTS (Group exhibition), COMPLEX.156, Zürich
- 2023 Kunstwerkstatt Waldau – BEST OF (Group exhibition), Kulturpunkt, Bern
- 2023 Best Friends Forever with Rohling Incognito (Group exhibition), Outside Rohling, Bern
- 2023 Ulk. Enttäuschte Reimerwartung (Exhibition with reading), WABE, Basel
- 2023 Format K (inclusive art project), alte Bibliothek, Münchenbuchsee
- 2022 BFF x RI Merry Christmas (Group exhibition), Outside Rohling, Bern
- 2022 Lost Darlings (Group exhibition), CRMI, Langenthal
- 2022 Apokalyptische Phantasien (Solo exhibition), Kulturpunkt, Bern
- 2022 Ausstellung im Dachstöckli (Solo exhibition), Galerie Mayhaus, Erlach
- 2022 Aufgewühlt (Group exhibition), Galerie im Kloster, SSBL, Emmen
- 2022 take ART away 20/22 (Group exhibition), ductus Kunstgalerie Café Bar, Luzern
- 2021 BFF x RI Merry Christmas (Group exhibition), Outside Rohling, Bern
- 2021 Supermarkt by Galerie Mayhaus (Group exhibition), Galerie Mayhaus, Erlach
- 2021 Metaphernbalg im Bildersturm (Solo exhibition), Hard-Cover Art Gallery, Zürich
- 2021 Jenseits aller Regeln (Group exhibition), Kunstmuseum Thurgau, Warth
- 2020 Myceling (Group exhibition), Künstlerhaus S11, Solothurn
- 2020 Reise ins Ungewisse (Solo exhibition), Gepard14, Bern
- 2019 15 Werke von 2015-2019 (Solo exhibition), Lehrerzimmer, Bern
- 2018 Worte suchen ihre Flügel (Solo exhibition), Au Chalet, Biel

Publications

- 2021 Kunstmuseum Thurgau (Hrsg.): Jenseits aller Regeln - Aussenseiterkunst, ein Phänomen. Scheidegger&Spiess 2021
- 2020 MÄD BOOK LYRIK 5: Raphael Reift
- 2014 MÄD BOOK 3: Gabrielle Alioth, Daniela Dill, Leonor Gnos, Roger Monnerat, Raphael Reift und Jürg Häusler

Awards

- 2022 Art Promotion Award from the Lions Club Central Switzerland



Zerknirschter Mandelkern, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
70 x 50 cm



Zerebrale Fuge mit Zunge, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 70 cm



Es bebt in der Bildebene, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
40 x 50 cm



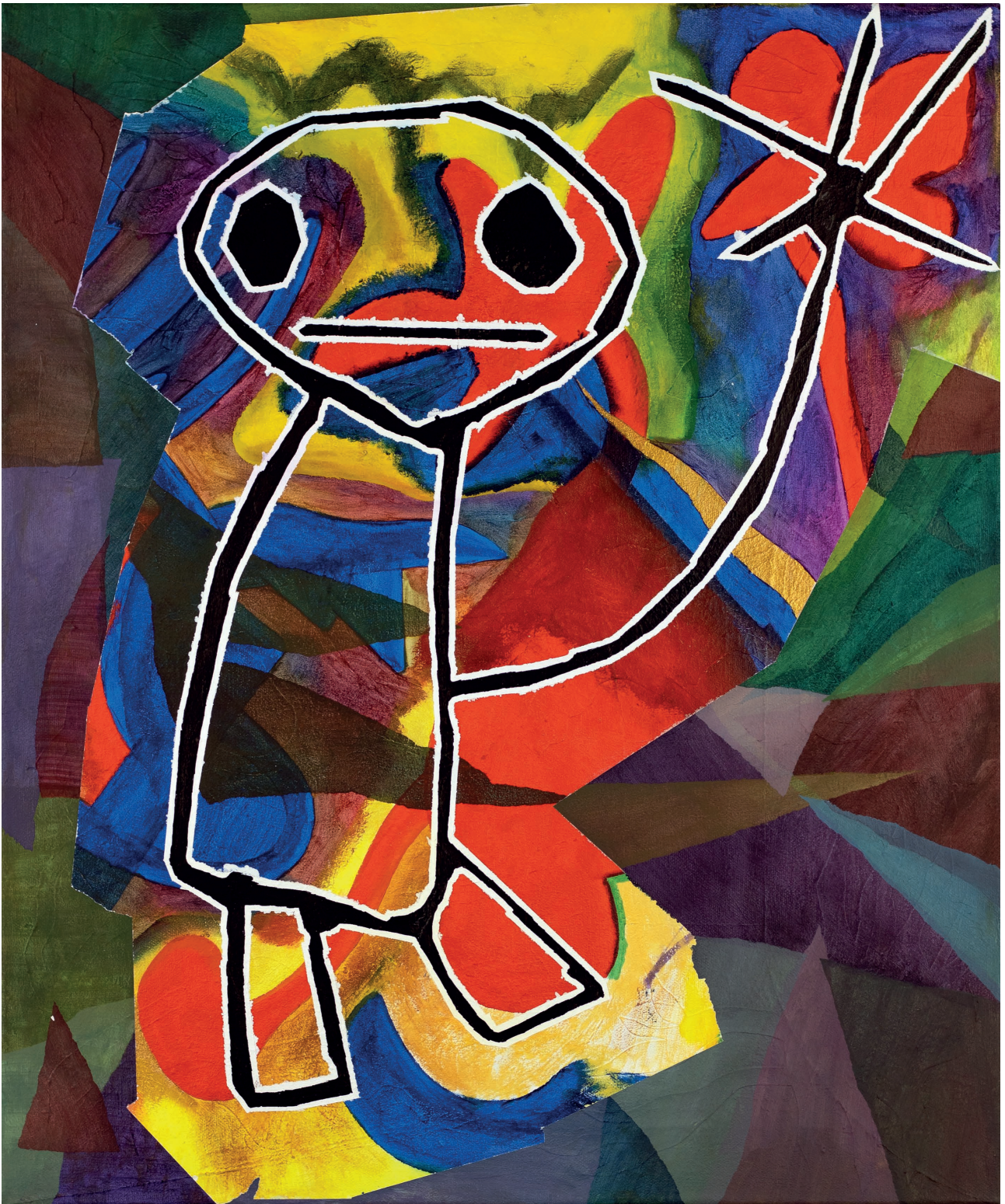
Un peuplier un peu plié, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
20 x 20 cm



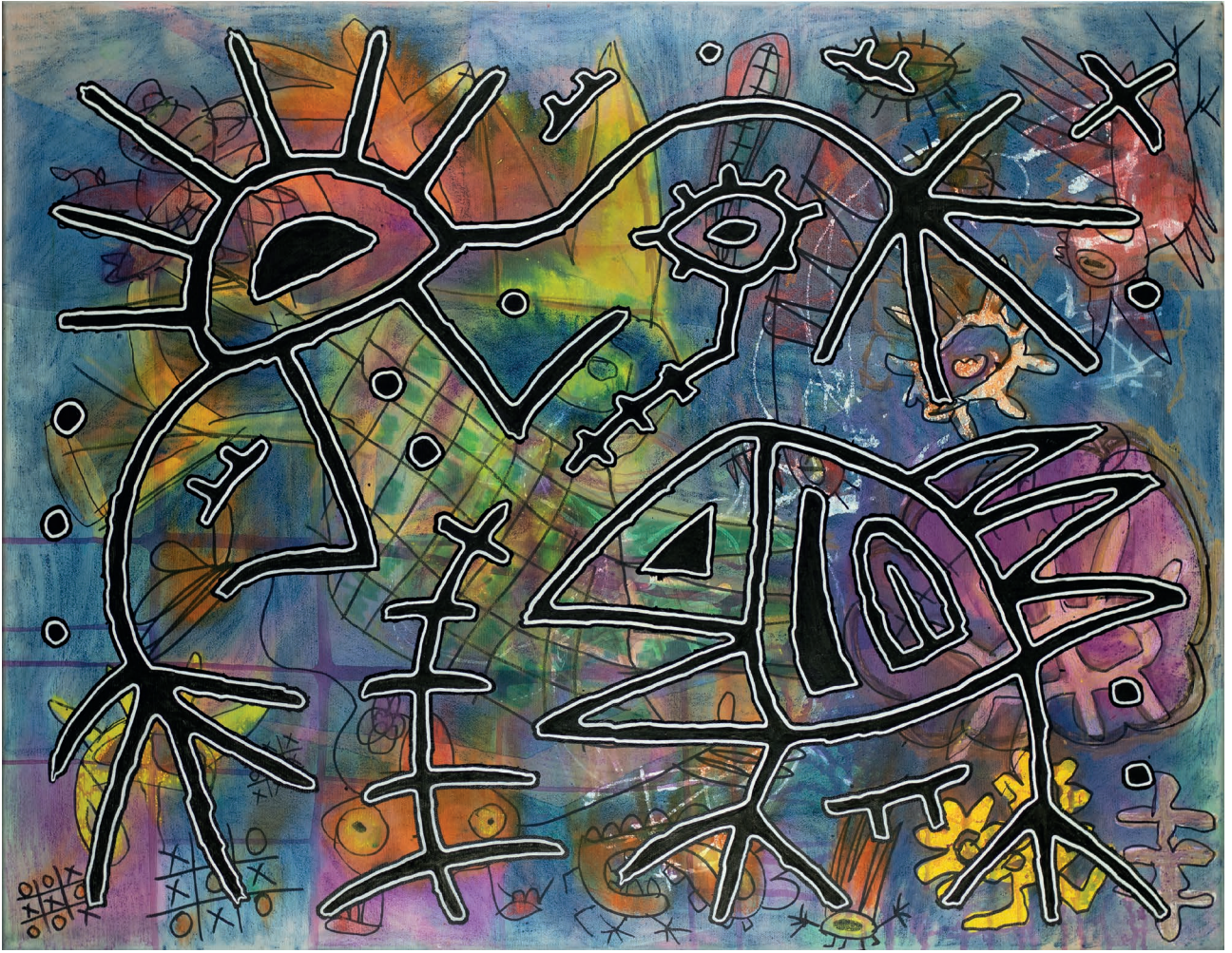
Kopfübersalat und drunterbunter, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Wegfindungsstörungen und Stolperfallen, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
70 x 50 cm



Puer neglectus, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
60 x 50 cm



O magnum mysterium, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
70 x 90 cm



Frechheiten sin keng Empfehlung!, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Aus der Stirne spriest ein Flügel, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Compassio, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 70 cm



Desolatio, 2024
Mixed media on canvas
70 x 50 cm



Jähe Erscheinungen unerklärbarer Natur, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
30 x 30 cm



Weltuntaugliche Wachträume, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
115 x 160 cm



Götterfunken und ein Angstspagat, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 40 cm



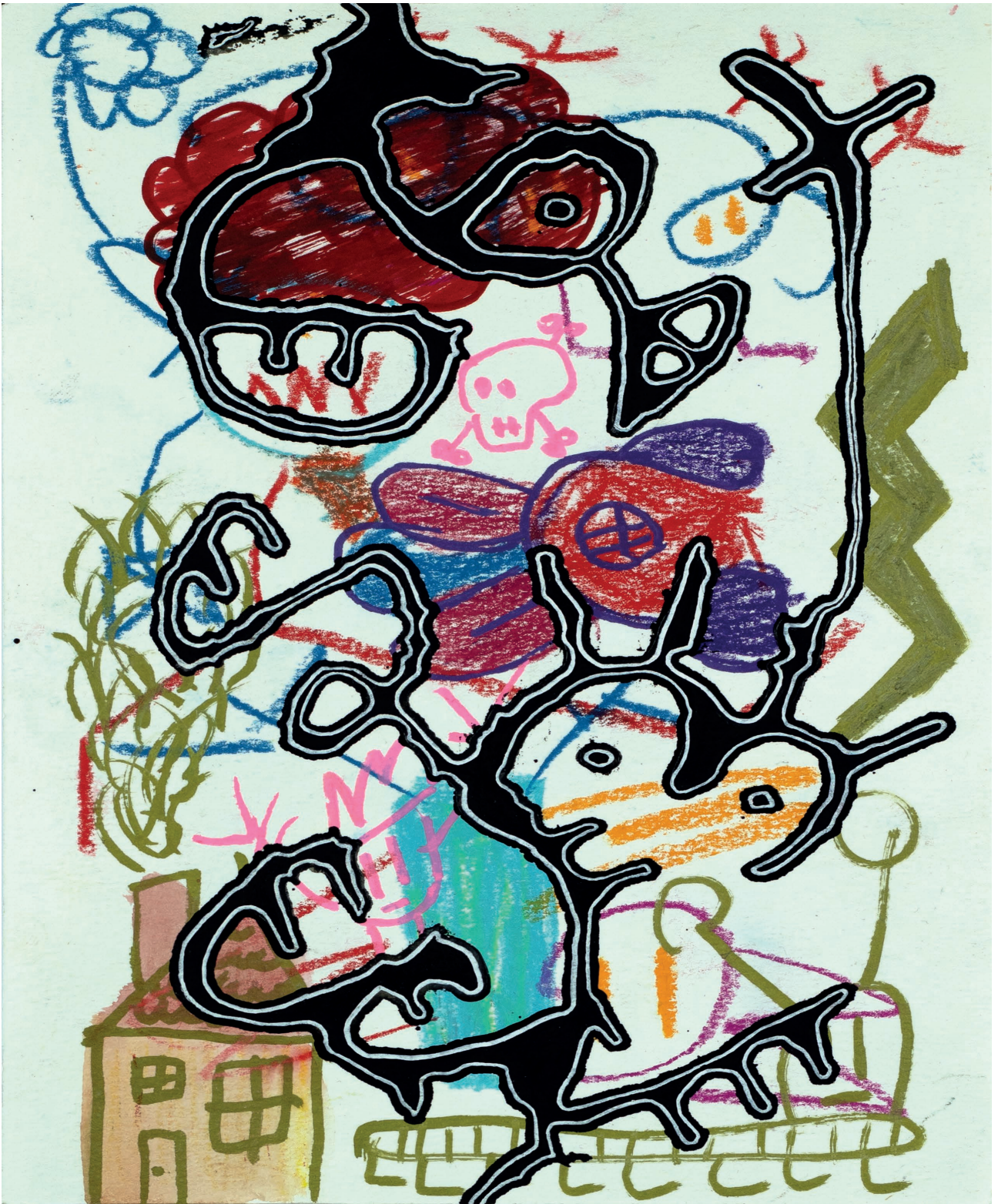
Dona nobis pacem, 2024
Mixed media on paper
21 x 14,8 cm



Unbiunium rex, 2024
Mixed media on paper
32 x 24 cm



La danse des mouches volantes, 2024
Mixed media on paper
32 x 24 cm



Die Weisheit wettet, 2024
Mixed media on paper
24 x 16 cm



Fugal und fungal, 2024
Mixed media on paper
32 x 24 cm



Pluto, 2023
Mixed media on paper
32 x 24 cm