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SCHAUDEPOT WEMHÖNER PRESS RELEASE

A NEW HOME FOR THE COLLECTION
THE WEMHÖNER COLLECTION OPENS ITS SCHAUDEPOT WITH
POWER IS FRAGILE

3 JULY – 1 NOVEMBER 2026

With the opening of the Schaudepot, the Wemhöner Collection establishes its first permanent home, bringing together the collection, its storage facilities and exhibition programme under one roof. Located in Herford, the Schaudepot serves both as an exhibition venue and as a home for the collection's holdings. It was conceived from the conviction that responsibility for art encompasses both its preservation and its public presentation. Changing exhibitions will present works from the collection to the public, offering new perspectives on its diversity.

Designed by **Hilmes Lamprecht Architekten BDA**, the building complex consists of two cubic volumes connected by a colonnade. Its defining feature is the façades clad in handcrafted grey bricks, whose sculptural texture lends the clearly articulated ensemble its distinctive architectural presence.

The detailed design was carried out by **Kirchhoff/Quack Architekten BDA**.

The bricks were produced by the Danish company **Petersen Tegl**.

With *POWER IS FRAGILE*, the Wemhöner Collection presents the first exhibition at its Schaudepot. Bringing together thirteen international artistic positions from the collection, the exhibition explores different manifestations of power. The works address questions of authority and control, status and social belonging, vulnerability and resistance, while drawing attention to the fragility of social orders.

Heiner Wemhöner, Collector:

“With the Schaudepot, we are creating a place where preserving and exhibiting art go hand in hand. Art unfolds its impact through dialogue with people. Our aim was therefore to create a place where the collection can be preserved for the long term while also being made regularly accessible to the public.”

POWER IS FRAGILE
CURATED BY PHILIPP BOLLMANN
INAUGURAL EXHIBITION AT THE SCHAUDEPOT
3 JULY – 1 NOVEMBER 2026

Some images we understand before we know why. A posture can signal discipline and submission. A diamond evokes ideas of wealth, permanence and social status. A shark appears as an emblem of primal strength. We read such signs almost effortlessly. Yet precisely because they are familiar to us, they sometimes remain unquestioned.

For centuries, art served to make power visible. It glorified kings and military leaders, told stories of divine legitimacy and created monuments to political systems and their self-image. Those who controlled images often also controlled ideas of what the world was like – and of the place individuals were expected to occupy within it. Yet art has never been merely an instrument of power. It has equally been a space for doubt, dissent and counter-images. It could affirm existing orders while simultaneously undermining them. Precisely where power strives for certainty, art opens up spaces of ambiguity. It makes visible what is suppressed and resists premature certainties.

The exhibition POWER IS FRAGILE brings together positions from the Wemhöner Collection that engage with different manifestations of power. Rather than approaching power as a clearly defined concept, the exhibition considers the images and ideas through which it becomes legible: postures and hierarchies, prestige and vulnerability, social differences, resistance and the question of how authority asserts itself. The works on view offer no definitive answers and follow no predetermined line of argument. Instead, they open up a space for reflection in which familiar certainties lose their apparent self-evidence. What is taken for granted emerges as the result of historical, social and cultural attributions. Perhaps the true fragility of power lies not in the possibility that it may fail, but in the fact that it never exists entirely in and of itself.

Philipp Bollmann, Curator of the Collection and the Exhibition:

“POWER IS FRAGILE brings together artistic positions that examine power in its different manifestations. The works speak of authority, control and social hierarchies, while at the same time revealing how fragile power can be – and how it must continually be renegotiated.”

Heike Höcherl, Head of Communications and Engagement:

“With the opening of the Schaudapot, the collection becomes publicly accessible at this location for the first time. We want to invite visitors to discover the works of POWER IS FRAGILE together through guided tours and other formats, creating opportunities for exchange and conversation.”

WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION

Fiona Banner, *Jastreb (neon jet)*, 2013, bent neon, wire on paper template, 110.5 × 85.2 × 13.5 cm

Monica Bonvicini, *Black Chain Grid #4*, 2020, tempera and spray paint on Fabriano paper, 203 × 153 cm

Monica Bonvicini, *Power Joy Humor Resistance*, 2021, red double-tube neon letters and electrical cables, 58 × 115 × 4 cm

Monica Bonvicini, *Silence*, 2022, two-component lacquer, mirror and aluminium, 150 × 110 cm

Monica Bonvicini, *Who Uses It Where It Comes From And How To Tie It*, 2022, bronze, 117 × 40 cm

Paul Graham, *E53rd Street, 12th April 2010, 9.45.55 am.*, 2010, pigment inkjet print, two parts, 147 × 193 cm each

Fiona Hall, *Zero Sum*, 2017, aluminium cans, sheet metal, wire and paint (10 parts), dimensions variable

Stella Hamberg, *Das ist das*, 2015, bronze, 120 × 110 × 110 cm

John Isaacs, *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*, 2016, bronze, 230 × 115 × 86 cm

Bianca Kennedy, *Angers*, 2024, five-channel video installation, 4:40 min.

Sven Marquardt, *Untitled I-V (Rudel)*, 2012, fine art inkjet print, 90 × 60 cm each

Tang Maohong, *A Part of Classics I-VI*, 2003, fine art inkjet print, 11.4 × 6.3 cm each

Andreas Mühe, *Darges 42 II*, 2012 and *Dönitz 43 II*, 2012, both C-prints, 140 × 110 cm

Eko Nugroho, *Hierarchy of Prosperity #1*, 2015, fibreglass and oil paint, 240 × 120 × 150 cm

Erik Schmidt, *There's Enough to Go Around*, 2012, oil on canvas, 221 × 149 cm

Nasan Tur, *Diamonds, 1.20 ct*, 2018, print on aluminium, 150 × 225 cm

PUBLICATION

In 2025, the collection publication *Follow Me Behind the Mirror. Positions of the Wemhöner Collection* was released and subsequently honoured with the Tokyo Award. Richly illustrated and featuring essays by Philipp Bollmann (*Dialogue and Perception*) and Heike Höcherl (*C'est mon plaisir – Collecting Art, Sharing a Passion*), the volume offers a comprehensive insight into the collection and its curatorial perspectives.

Follow Me Behind the Mirror. Positions of the Wemhöner Collection
Philipp Bollmann, Heike Höcherl. Design: Neue Gestaltung. DISTANZ Verlag, Berlin, August 2025. 404 pages, approx. 335 colour illustrations, hardcover, 27.5 × 23 cm. ISBN 978-3-95476-769-4 (German), 978-3-95476-769-4 (English). €48

PRESS IMAGES

High-resolution press images are available for download in the press section of the Schaudapot at **sammlung-wemhoener.com**.

Photo credit for installation views

Installation view of *POWER IS FRAGILE*, Schaudapot Wemhöner, 2026.
Photo © def image. Courtesy of Sammlung Wemhöner

CONTACT

Philipp Bollmann

Director | Artistic Director

Heike Höcherl

Head of Communications | Engagement

Sammlung Wemhöner

www.sammlung-wemhoener.com