

ARCOmadrid 2025 Barbara Wien, Berlin Booth 9P03

Preview days: March 5–7, 2025

Public days: March 7–9, 2025

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Dan Lie b. 1988

Over the last ten years, Dan Lie, who was awarded both the Ars Viva Prize and the Preis der Nationalgalerie, Berlin, in 2023, has developed an artistic practice that spans drawing, sculpture, and large-scale installations. Their work is based on long-term research into topics related to time, our fraught understanding of death, and its underlying binaries and taboos. For their site-specific installations Lie collaborates with “other-than-human” entities: bacteria, fungi, and insects which transform the organic matter that constitutes the installations. Two of these installations were recently on view at Octagon Pinacoteca, São Paulo and Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin. Other exhibition venues in the last two years were Sonje Art Center, Seoul, the New Museum, New York, and the 35th Bienal de São Paulo. In 2025 Dan Lie will have exhibitions at Museu Habitat, Barcelona and Spike Island, Bristol.

At ARCOmadrid the gallery’s presentation of Lie’s work will be part of *Profiles / Latin American Art* curated by José Esparza Chong Cuy. The solo booth will show a combination of textile sculptures suspended in mid air called *Members* and drawings from the series *The Reek Testimonials*.

Members

Alongside their large installations Lie creates sculptural works out of fabrics, which are the non-perishable remains of their installations. Lie reassembles these materials – all of which carry their own history – and thus allows different layers of time to converge. The sculptural ensemble of *Members* was developed as part of the installation *Grieving Secret Society*, a group of hanging sculptures consisting of draped fabrics dyed with turmeric, which were conceived of upon invitation by the Carnegie International Pittsburgh, 2022. Having experimented with different natural dyes, Lie ultimately settled on turmeric because fabrics dyed with this vibrant yellow spice can return to their original white when exposed to sunlight. The works

thus evoke different associations when changing from bright yellow to white over time, with spectators from different cultural contexts assigning different meanings to the colours in turn. The symbology of the works can thus transform and move around.

The Reek Testimonials

In their drawing practice, Lie employs a variety of mediums on paper, including oil stick, charcoal, watercolour, diluted gouache, and various pastels – oil, soft, and dry. The shapes of the non-human protagonists and primary forms of *The Reek Testimonials* are simplistic and sketch-like, reminiscent of comic drawings, which allow for the creation of images with minimal gestures. Contrastingly, the background is characterised by multiple layers, providing depth and solidity to the objects in the foreground. Lie’s process of creating drawings unfolds intuitively without strategic planning. The works in the series *The Reek Testimonial* are studies of Lie’s work *The Reek*, a large-scale installation presented at Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin in 2024, which is now part of the museum’s collection.

Attempts to deal with movement, change and impermanence, coupled with insights gained from these efforts, have guided Dan Lie’s practice and led them to develop a concept of non-accumulation. In the case of creating sculptures and drawings, Lie consequently had to confront the fact that these mediums do not decay at the same speed as ephemeral installations. Since 2023, they have thus begun to apply an approach of impermanence to their drawings and sculptures, establishing a deadline of five years, counting from the date a work is shown for the first time. If acquired, the work will remain under the collector’s custody indefinitely, and the deadline will be voided. Otherwise, the work will return to Studio Dan Lie, where it will either be transformed into other artworks or destroyed once the five-year period has passed.

Dan Lie (b. 1988) lives and works in Berlin, Germany. They are a fellow of the Berlin Artistic Research Programme 2024-25. Lie has had solo exhibitions at venues including Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Brazil (2024), Art Sonje Center, Seoul, South Korea (2024), Kunstverein Braunschweig, Germany (2023), Zwingli-Kirche, Berlin, Germany (2023), New Museum, NY, USA (2022), Casa do Povo, São Paulo, Brazil (2019) and Jupiter Art Land, Edinburgh, Scotland (2019).

Dan Lie has participated in group shows including *Preis der Nationalgalerie* 2024, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2024), the 35th Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (2023); the Singapore Biennale 2022, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; the 58th Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA (2022), Geneva Biennale – Sculpture Garden, Geneva, Switzerland (2022); *Composições para tempos insurgentes*, Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2021); *Metabolic Rift*, Berlin Atonal Festival, Berlin, Germany (2021); *Park Platz*, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany (2021); *Bouge B Festival*, De Singel International Arts Center, Antwerp, Belgium (2018); 14th Yogyakarta Biennale, Yogyakarta Nacional Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2017); CCBB Música Performance 4, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo (2016).