

Biography Miriam Cahn

Miriam Cahn was born in 1949 in Basel, where she grew up in an affluent and cultured household. Her father was an art and antiques dealer, her mother a housewife, who introduced to Miriam Cahn to drawing and playing music at an early age. After studying graphic arts at Basel College of Applied Art (1968-73), until 1976 Miriam Cahn worked as a drawing teacher and academic draftsman. Her sister's suicide led her to become an independent artist. She was involved with the anti-nuclear movement and the women's movement, for example as delegate of the Organisation for Women's Issues (OFRA) at the 1976 Warsaw Peace Conference. From December 1979 until January 1980, in a nocturnal art action, she painted murals on the so-called 'Northern Tangent', a motorway bridge then under construction in Basel. The protest action was discovered by the police and led to a trial.

Miriam Cahn won recognition as an artist and achieved an international reputation early in her career. Her first exhibition (1977, Galerie Stampa, Basel), was followed by numerous individual and group exhibitions, which increasingly spread across Europe. In 1982 Miriam Cahn was invited to documenta 7, but withdrew her contribution before the opening because of a curatorial intervention by Rudi Fuchs. In 1984 she took part in the Venice Biennale. Between 1985 and 1989 Miriam Cahn lived in Berlin; she then returned to Basel. In 2002 she had a large solo exhibition at the Centre PasquArt in Biel, where her painting was shown comprehensively for the first time, followed by the solo exhibition *Miriam Cahn: corporel/körperlich*, which was held in the Aargauer Kunsthhaus Aarau and led to the artist's rediscovery. This was followed in 2017 by Miriam Cahn's appearance at documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel. In 2019 parallel solo shows are held, in the Kunsthhaus Bregenz and the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid. The exhibition *Miriam Cahn – ICH ALS MENSCH* travels after its first presentation in Bern then to the Haus der Kunst Munich as well as the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. Miriam Cahn, who has received many awards for her work, now lives and works in Stampa in Bregaglia, Switzerland.

Public collections with works by Miriam Cahn: Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau; Öffentliche Kunstsammlung, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel; Kunstmuseum Bern; Ernst Ludwig Kirchner Stiftung, Davos; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt a. M.; Sammlung Kunstcredit, Archäologie und Museum Baselland, Liestal; Tate Modern, London; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Nürnberg; Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris; Kunst(Zeug)Haus, Rapperswil; Kunsthhaus Zürich; Graphische Sammlung der ETH, Zürich; Kunsthhaus Zug.