



Brigitte und Martin Matschinsky-Denninghoff im Berliner Atelier, 1984, Foto: © Wolff-Steffen Brumm

Matschinsky- Denninghoff Estate

**A bequest for Berlin and
a responsibility for the
Berlinische Galerie**

After the death of the Berlin-based sculptor Martin Matschinsky (4 July 1921–24 January 2020), the federal state of Berlin inherited the Matschinsky-Denninghoff estate he left behind following the earlier death of his wife and artistic companion Brigitte Matschinsky-Denninghoff (2 June 1923–11 April 2011). Together they created iconic works, especially for the public space. Their estate has now passed into the care of Berlin’s public museum for modern art, photography and architecture.

The artistic partnership between Brigitte Matschinsky-Denninghoff and Martin Matschinsky began in 1955. In 1959 and 1964 they took part in documenta at Kassel, in 1962 they were invited to the Venice Biennale and in 1967 to Expo in Montreal, and they were honoured with numerous exhibitions in Germany and abroad. Early retrospectives dedicated to their work were staged at the Folkwang Museum in Essen (1967), the Nationalgalerie Berlin (1970), the Berlin Academy of Arts (1985) and the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg (1985). Since the 1960s, their monumental stainless steel sculptures have been landmarks in public space across Europe and beyond. From the late 1980s, they also created fragile sculptures on a smaller scale. To mark the 750th anniversary celebrations in Berlin in 1987, their best-known work “Berlin” was placed outside the Europacenter on the island dividing Tauentzienstrasse. Their sculpture “Dreiheit” [“Threedom”] (1993) on the forecourt outside the Berlinische Galerie has become a distinctive marker for the public museum. In 1993 the imprint Wienand published an extensive monograph on the life and work of these two artists, adding a catalogue raisonné of their sculptures up until that date. The couple spent the summer months from 1994 in Schönfeld, Saxony-Anhalt, where they converted two four-sided courtyards into living and working quarters. This was the setting for their lesser-known late work, the big sculptures set in the spacious gardens there.

In January 2021, the federal state of Berlin established the Matschinsky-Denninghoff-Stiftung under the roof of the Berlinische Galerie to be the custodian of this substantial bequest. The estate includes some 240 sculptures from every period of their creative lives, thousands of paper-based works by both artists, more than 200 paintings by Martin Matschinsky, a small collection with works by other artists, archive records, and properties in Berlin and Schönfeld. Reflecting the couple’s own wishes, the foundation will use the resources at its disposal to promote art and contemporary artists.



“We are pleased to take responsibility for the artistic estate of Brigitte and Martin Matschinsky-Denninghoff. Apart from designing a bursary programme, our task will be to preserve and digitise the holdings so that they are publicly accessible and will permit further scholarly research into the œuvre.”
Dr Thomas Köhler, Director of the Berlinische Galerie

“I am delighted that the foundation Matschinsky-Denninghoff-Stiftung is to be established today under the roof of the Berlinische Galerie ‘to promote art and contemporary artists’. I am sure that this will be a robust construct for the lasting fulfilment of the couple’s express desire to promote contemporary artists.”
Dr Klaus Lederer, Senator for Culture and Europe

Press **Berlinische Galerie**

Ulrike Andres
Head of Communication and Education
Tel +49 (0)30 78 902 829
andres@berlinischegalerie.de

Contact:
Paula Rosenboom
Communication
Tel +49 (0)30 78 902 831
rosenboom@berlinischegalerie.de

Berlinische Galerie
Berlin’s Museum of Modern Art,
Photography and Architecture
Alte Jakobstraße 124–128
10969 Berlin
Tel +49 (0)30 78 902 600
berlinischegalerie.de