

**HARDHITTA GALLERY**  
**Bene Taschen**  
**Moltkestr. 81, 50674 Cologne**

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**Miron Zownir // Ulrike Nattermüller //**  
**Joseph Rodriguez // Jamel Shabazz // Arlene Gottfried //**  
**Gregory Bojorquez // Oliver Blum**

**January 20 – March 12, 2017**

Six years after its founding and numerous pop-up exhibitions, the Cologne Hardhitta Gallery will be exhibiting a new exhibition space on January 19, 2017, which is located right in the heart of Cologne. This is celebrated with a group exhibition of all artists: the photographers Arlene Gottfried, Gregory Bojorquez, Jamel Shabazz, Miron Zownir and Joseph Rodriguez and the painters Ulrike Nattermüller and Oliver Blum.

Each artist tells his own story with its own story, which is to be explored for the viewer. In the black-and-white as well as in the color works of the five photographers, the main focus is on people of different origins, their living conditions as well as their handling of their culture in the most diverse living situations. They are, on the one hand, motifs that reflect the hard sides of life: life as an outsider, the daily confusion with society, or the rivalries among the different gang members. On the other hand, they are motivated by friendship, family spirit, love, or simply the ease of being in the form of snapshots. Street photography at its best.

The painters of the gallery, Oliver Blum and Ulrike Nattermüller, show similarities in the design of their works through the abstract, partly figurative and intuitive; And yet their painting styles could not be more different. Ulrike Nattermüller's paintings show a purity and stand in contrast to Oliver Blum's artistically confused images full of contradictions and energy.

**Gregory Bojorquez** (\* 1972) grew up in the east of Los Angeles, where he still lives and works today. His career and later passion began in which he photographed his friends and his neighborhood. Bojorquez pictures contain all the life cultures of his hometown. His motifs are located between the worlds of Hollywood and the streetwalk in L.A.

**Oliver Blum** (\* 1978) was known for his dynamic experimental style, by means of which he found his individual style outside the usual forms and methods of work. His paintings show partly original structures, partly cubist-like abstractions, and still leave room for the individual interpretation of the viewer. He lives and works in Düsseldorf.

**Arlene Gottfried** (\* 1950) is an American photographer who took her first pictures in 1969 during the legendary Woodstock Festival. The different groups and milieus in which she grew up fascinated Gottfried and she photographed the diversity of the city of New York in all its facets.

**Ulrike Nattermüller** (born 1955) was born in Wuppertal and studied at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. From the 1970s she worked in the media photography, text, fabric, sculpture and painting.

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**Joseph Rodriguez** (\* 1951) lives and works in New York. Rodriguez, formerly a prisoner and a drug addict, found a way far away from crime and his future passion: photography, which was a therapy for him and a change of life. His pictures are illustrations of real life in which the human being is at the forefront.

**Jamel Shabazz** (\* 1960) grew up in the streets of Red Hook in Brooklyn. Shabazz takes the viewer back to a different time and captures the 80s' sense of life with his shots. In his paintings, he notes the change of a new lifestyle and culture that is still relevant today

**Miron Zownir** (\* 1953) has been one of the most radical photographers of our time for more than 40 years. He photographed in western large cities like Berlin, London and New York and the post-Communist East of Europe. His photographs show outsiders of the society: drug addicts, homeless, prostitutes and small criminal. Zownir's photographs give a penetrating insight into subculture circles. He lives and works in Berlin

**Opening:**

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 6.00 - 9.00 p.m.

**Gallery Hours:**

Wednesday - Saturday, 1.00 - 6.00 p.m. or by appointment

**Gallery address:**

Moltkestr. 81  
50674 Cologne

**Upcoming exhibitions:**

March 2017  
*Gregory Bojorquez*  
Moltkestr. 81  
50674 Cologne

The **Hardhitta Gallery** was founded in 2011 by Bene Taschen as a gallery for contemporary photography and painting. After the solo exhibitions of the American photographers Gregory Bojorquez and Joseph Rodriguez, the gallery 2014 extended its program to the Berlin-based photographer Miron Zownir and the Düsseldorf painter Oliver Blum. In the year 2015 the gallery took the American photographer Jamel Shabazz and Arlene Gottfried, the following year also the German painter Ulrike Nattermüller in her program. The Hardhitta Gallery is regularly represented at Paris Photo.