



JANINE SEELEN

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Artist Statement

Every day, we must ask different people different questions, explore sources, and gather diverse experiences to shape ourselves and discover our own truths. We decide whether to make things visible or keep them hidden.

Making decisions means never truly knowing where they will lead. How will the other person react or respond? What's behind the curtain? What will happen, if I press this button? Am I responding to this impulse? Am I making contact?

I ask myself: Can we control the decisions we make? And do we have the courage to face the consequences? Are we off track? Failing? Starting over?

At the heart of my paintings lies a triangle: a point in time, a place, and an emotion. To me, life is a series of encounters. Each place, each decision, each person becomes exactly what they are because of a unique chain of events. But the most fascinating moments are when you encounter yourself. You stumble upon a question you've once asked, a memory, a feeling, or an unexpected impulse.

Everyday situations and objects fascinate me. Diversity, observation, and research drive me. Switches, keyholes, LEDs, and loudspeakers, stripped of their original functionality and location, are the motifs of my RESET series. I understand them as symbols of active decision-making processes. Confronting and encountering—my works is pleasantly uncomfortable. It radiates depth and calm. Through their size and technique of painterly representation, they invite the automatic desire to touch.

Getting up close and personal, consciously engaging with what I am doing now or what I will be doing next. It is my goal to offer space for mental „what-if“ scenarios to unfold. Personally. Directly. Emotionally. Consciously. In touch with the self and humanity.

BIO

Janine Seelen is a painter with a career in the art and design world. After completing her graphic design studies in Germany, she moved to the USA and worked in New York and San Francisco for renowned companies, agencies, and publishers. In 1995, she founded her first graphic design studio in New York with a partner. In 2000, she returned to her hometown of Hamburg and continued her interdisciplinary graphic design work there. She provided practical training to many junior designers after their studies and placed them with renowned publishers and agencies. Since 2019, Seelen has worked exclusively as a freelance artist with exhibitions in Hamburg, Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Salzburg, and the USA. Janine Seelen lives and works in Hamburg.

CV

Since 2019, painter with exhibitions in Germany, Austria, USA
2002, Founder, Creative Director, *Creative Minds*, Hamburg
2001, Creative Consultant *Gruner & Jahr*, Hamburg, *Time Inc.*, NYC
2000, Art Director, *Jahreszeiten Verlag*, Hamburg
1995, Founder, Partner, Creative Director, *360°*, NYC
1994, Freelance Designer, *Esprit*, San Francisco, *Sisman Design*, *Meredith Corporation*, NYC
1993, Freelance Designer, *Kirschenbaum, Bond and Partners*, NYC
1993, Master Visual Communications, *HBK Braunschweig*

Exhibitions and Fairs

2026 in planning:
March: BBK Hamburg, *Annual Exhibition*, Group Exhibition
April: *My Daily Dose*, b-05, Kultursommer Rheinland-Pfalz, Duo-Exhibition with installation artist Marie Seelen
September: Kulturhaus Marne, Solo Exhibition;
2025, *altonale Kunsterbst 2025*, Hotel Pacific, Hamburg, Group Show
OH Galerie, Karlsruhe, Group Show
ART MUC, presented by ExtractArt, Berlin, Group Show
Discovery Art Fair, Köln, Solo Show;
viele farben, 2025, OH Galerie, Karlsruhe, Group Show;
2024, *altonale Kunsterbst 2024*, Hotel Pacific, Hamburg, Group Show;
SUPPER CLUB GALERY, Jeanette Walther, Sprockhövel, Group Show;
ANONYMOUS DRAWINGS Berlin, Kunstraum Kreuzberg, Berlin, Group Show;
ZEITLOS, der salon, Eiskeller Hamburg, Solo Show:;
New Works, Studio Show, Hamburg;
Transformation, New Bedford Art Museum, USA, Group Show
2023, *MoNo*, ExtractArt, Berlin, Group Show;
Position, Ausstellung und Forum, BBK Hamburg, Group Show;
Le Debut, White Wall Collectors Club, Salzburg, Group Show;

Sehtest, OH Galerie, Karlsruhe, Group Show;
#006 Raum, Taylor Wessing x Galerie Holthoff, Hamburg, Group Show;
2022, *Emergent realities and the fabrication of now*, San Francisco, Cachronicle Volume 2, Online Group Show;
ANONYMOUS DRAWINGS Hamburg, Hyper Cultural Passengers (HYCP) Veddel Space, Group Show;
Discovery Art Fair Frankfurt, Solo Show;
Art Matters 6, Galerie Biesenbach, Online Group Show;
2021, *The Safe House*, Studio Janine Seelen, Solo Show

Collaborations

2025, *THE BETTERHEIM*, Frederike Bettermann, Kittlitz, Solo Show
2024, *SUPPER CLUB GALERY*, Jeanette Walther, Sprockhövel, Gruppenausstellung
2023, AREA Showroom Linz, Austria
since 2022, *Segelflieger* music and paintings with composer Roland Mattner
2022, Film co-production *RUHE/CALM* in collaboration with director Mark Seelen
2021, Graphic concept und Design des Künstlerbuches *#ICPConcerned: Global Images for Global Crisis* für die gleichnamige Ausstellung im *The International Center of Photography (ICP)*, New York, veröffentlicht durch den Verlag gEditions USA
C6 - Interpretation des Gedichts *Zu Viel* für die interdisziplinär arbeitende Grafikerin JoJo @isadisasta und ihr Buchprojekt im Rahmen ihrer Diplomarbeit, Leipzig

Publications

2025, *Painting is a bit like gardening – bringing the deepest to the light*, Niels Jürgens, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/janineweitenauer/>;
Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary, Ana Bambić Kostov, <https://discoveryartfair.com/de/janine-seelen-koeln-2025/>
2024, *Transformation*, New Bedford Art Museum, USA, Exhibition Catalogue;
#30 – *OUR HOUSE – Der SALON Podcast*, Antje Wewer
2023, Taylor Wessing #006 Raum, *Journey between Internal and External Spaces*, Belinda Grace Gardner, Exhibition Catalogue
2022, *Transformierte Vielschichtigkeit*, Birgit Franke, Architura Magazine;
The Energy of the ordinary as created by Janine Seelen, Ana Bambić Kostov, www.discoveryartfair.com/janine-seelen/;
In Between, Linda Hell, Art Market Magazine;
Talk to me, Jeanette Kunsmann, A&W Magazin;
Painting the Ordinary Surrounded by Space, brochure
2022, 2020, *Neobrutalism*, article in ELLE DECOR ITALIA/CHINA/JAPAN, ELLE DECORATION UK

Art Awards

2023, *Art Matters 7*, Galerie Biesenbach Berlin, Honourable Mention, *River House*
2022, The *Gold List*, Art Market Magazine, *Zones*
2022, *Art Matters 6*, Galerie Biesenbach Berlin, Honourable Mention, *Zones*
2021, *LICC*, London: Final Selection, *The Safe House*, fine art series

Interdisciplinary Awards

2020, *LICC*, London: Official Selection, Interior Design, *Neobrutalism*, in collaboration with Mark Seelen
2019, *Indigo Design Award*: Silver, Branding, *Get Excycled*;
Indigo Design Award: Gold, Integrated Design, *Dr. Branding*

Graphic Awards, Excerpts

2019, *IF Design Award*: Winner, Book Design, *The Story of a Brand*;
German Design Award, *Rat für Formgebung*: Winner, Book Design, *The Story of a Brand*; *DDC*,
Gute Gestaltung: Bronze, Book Design, *The Story of a Brand*;
Indigo Design Award: Gold, Book Design, *The Story of a Brand*
1999, *SPD*: Merit Award, *Mode Magazine*, Single Page;
American Corporate Identity: Award of Excellence, *Mode Magazine*, *Logo Design*
1998, *Graphic Design USA*: Excellence in Communication and Graphic Design, *Le Journal de Chanel*
1997, *Summit Creative Awards*: Bronze, *Mode Magazine*, *Launch*;
Summit Creative Awards: Silver, *Zeitgeist*, *The Essence of the Moment*;
Summit Creative Awards: Silver, *Chanel*, *Le Journal de Chanel*;
Summit Creative Awards: Gold, *DKNY*, *Don't Loose Control*
1996, *AIGA*: Excellence in Environmental Design, *L'Oréal*, *Cybershine*