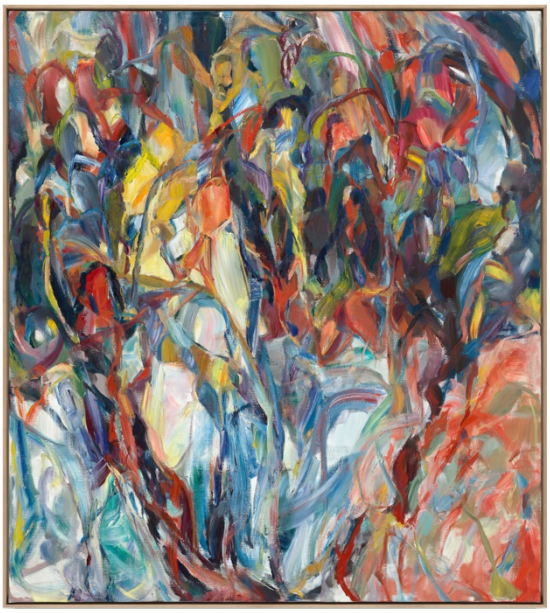
Sabine Moritz

ROT GELB BLAU STAUB

11 September – 31 October 2026
Potsdamer Straße 77-87, 10785 Berlin

Opening: Friday, 11 September, 6 – 8pm



Sabine Moritz, *Erde II*, 2026, photo: Georgios Michaloudis

Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin, is pleased to present ROT GELB BLAU STAUB, a solo exhibition by **Sabine Moritz**, marking her inaugural exhibition with the gallery.

For the exhibition, Moritz brings together twelve large-format canvases arranged in groups of three, her first quadriptych oil painting, and a still life. In addition, a selection of works on paper are presented on the upper floor gallery, offering an insight into the artist's diverse oeuvre from the last thirty years. Working in abstraction and figuration, Moritz paints or draws on canvas and paper, across large and small scales, in pared-down tones in her early works, and later in vivid hues. Ostensibly disparate, her works demand a slow and intimate process of looking. In these moments of pause, recurring motifs, figures and forms gently come to the fore. Echoing like fragments of memory, her works begin to inform one another in subtle and surprising ways.

Throughout her practice, Moritz demonstrates a continuous investigation into the complexities of the human condition. Drawing from subjects spanning history, mythology and poetry, she interweaves elements of personal memory with collective experience. In her early practice – represented in the exhibition by the works on paper – Moritz worked mostly on her compositions using photographs and newspaper cuttings. Over the past ten years, however, abstraction has predominated in her paintings, which are created intuitively and without preliminary sketches. For her twelve new paintings, Moritz was loosely inspired by the four elements: fire, air, earth and water. Working across four groups of three, she imbues her canvases with some essence of these primordial substances – in title, palette and character alike. Licks of paint flicker like flames, dissolve into vaporous whorls, lend an earthy heaviness, or swill in liquidy pools.

Since 2023, Moritz has been introducing corporeal forms into some of her compositions, testing notions of the abstract-figurative divide. In her new monumental quadriptych, female bodies emerge in a kind of alchemy from gestural swathes and strokes of paint. Slipping in and out of focus, their contours gently dissolve, ebbing and flowing between pigment and form. Driven by instinct, Moritz paints freely and spontaneously. Her figures evoke associations with the canon of art history – from Titian to Picasso – as much as with raw emotion, sentiment and mood.

Translating to 'RED YELLOW BLUE DUST', the title of the exhibition encapsulates Moritz's aesthetic and conceptual dialogue between colour and matter. In her paintings, dense areas built largely from primary colours seem to diffuse upwards, as if shifting between elemental forms. Light-filled daubs in sky-blue and rose-petal pink are offset by verdant greens and yellows in the artist's three *Luft* (Air) paintings. In the *Feuer* (Fire) works, a deep red smoulders at the centre of each canvas. From the jewel-like, dappled ground of *Teach us to number our days II*, three skulls materialise, forming an enduring *memento mori*.

On the upper floor, Moritz's works on paper present figurative images and associations that have come to define her early practice: helicopters, ships and apartment blocks; singular flowers wilting or blooming on a stem; the lone figure of a child. Such references stem from her childhood memories of growing up in the GDR, as well as art-historical, social and political iconography, and recurring symbols of ephemerality. They permeate her drawings with the elusiveness of a dream. Drawn into the artist's world, the viewer is invited to linger and weave narratives from these momentary fragments of form.

Sabine Moritz (b. 1969, Quedlinburg, Germany) lives and works in Cologne. Solo exhibitions of the artist's work have been held in international institutions including Le Château – Centre for Contemporary Art and Heritage of Aubenas; Olivia Foundation, Mexico City (both 2025); Kunsthalle Rostock (2019); Kunstverein Bremerhaven (2017); and Von der Heydt-Kunsthalle, Wuppertal-Barmen (2014), among others. Moritz's works are in the collections of The Broad, Los Angeles; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Dallas Museum of Art; FAMM – Female Artists of the Mougins Museum; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong; Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker; Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; Lenbachhaus Munich; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest; Olivia Foundation, Mexico City; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing; and Tate, London, among others.

The artist's work will be presented in a solo exhibition at the Garden Museum, London, from 8 October to 20 December 2026.

Extended Opening Hours
Berlin Art Week

Thursday, 10 September: 11am – 10pm
Friday, 11 September: 11am – 8pm
Saturday, 12 September: 11am – 6pm
Sunday, 13 September: 12 – 6pm

Further Exhibitions and Events

BERLIN

Grace Weaver
Parataxis
4 September – 24 October 2026
Bleibtreustraße 45
10623 Berlin

PARIS

Sergey Kononov
Mémoires
5 September – 10 October 2026
46 & 57, rue du Temple
75004 Paris

LONDON

Walton Ford
An Orbed Drop of Light
17 September – 11 November 2026
41 Dover Street
London W1S 4NS

MARFA

Rinus Van de Velde
The Dinner
24 May – 6 December 2026
1976 Antelope Hills Road
Marfa, Texas

Press Contact

Galerie Max Hetzler

Honor Westmacott
honor@maxhetzler.com
+49 30 346 497 85-0

www.facebook.com/galeriemaxhetzler
www.instagram.com/galeriemaxhetzler

Sign up to our Newsletter