

## PRESS RELEASE

### Julia Krahn: *Schönerheit* – Song of Songs in Pictures

Photography exhibition and presentation of the catalog at St. Johannis Church,  
Göttingen, Germany  
19 May – 22 June 2016

Hanover / Göttingen. The internationally renowned artist Julia Krahn began working on the portrait series *Schönerheit* in 2013 as a commission from the Anna von Borries Foundation, and now it will be shown for the first time in a photography exhibition. The series focuses on twelve residents of an institution run by DIAKOVERE Annastift Leben und Lernen—people with almost exclusively physical disabilities.

The project *Schönerheit* portrays the beauty of people with disabilities in a new light through an artistic lens and questions conventional ideals of beauty. In her work, Julia Krahn often deals with social values, societal change, and the subject of religion. For the first time, neither she herself nor people from her immediate family are featured in her work. In close cooperation with the residents, she created moving scenes that express their unique and loveable qualities in every picture.

The Song of Songs from the Bible, with its rich imagery and associations on the theme of love and beauty, serves as an inspiration and connecting thread for the series. Bishop Ralf Meister: “The artist portrayed the participants as in the love song of the Old Testament: *How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves. How handsome you are, my beloved! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant. (Song of Songs 1:15–16)*”

“The people portrayed in the photographs were able to present themselves playfully and freely. The photographs show us the individuals without putting them on display. For the participants it was important to be seen with their disability, but not because of it,” states Dr. Ulrich Spielmann, Managing Director of Diakovere Annastift Leben und Lernen gGmbH and Chairman of the Anna von Borries Stiftung. The foundation, whose mission is to support people with disabilities, initiated and funded the entire project with support from the Hanns-Lilje-Stiftung.

The exhibition with a selection of photographs will be opened by Bishop Ralf Meister on 19 May 2016 at 6 p.m. at St. Johannis Church in Göttingen; the artist and the participants will be present. The works will be on view until 22 June 2016 from Wednesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Later the series will travel to Bremerhaven, Hildesheim, Verden, and Hanover, and will also be part of the group exhibition *Kunst trotz Handicap* in the Marktkirche in Hanover (21 September – 19 October 2016), as well as Kassel, Bremen, and the Landesgartenschau 2017 in Apolda.

A **catalog** will be published with numerous color illustrations, a foreword by Bishop Ralf Meister, and essays by Beatrice Buscaroli, Angela Madesani, and Gian Paolo Serino, as well as an extensive look behind the scenes. The publication will include texts in German, English, Italian, and Plain Language (German).

**Julia Krahn** was born in Jülich and grew up in Aachen. In 2001 she left her studies in medicine in Freiburg and moved to Milan to fully dedicate herself to art. Today she works with

various galleries in multiple countries. Her works are shown in museums and galleries around the world. She has received several prizes. Most recently she was featured at the Landesmuseum Hannover and the Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz.

The **Anna von Borries Stiftung** is a dependent foundation that supports assistance for people with disabilities, the elderly, public health care, and education. It mainly supports the charitable organizations DIAKOVERE Annastift Leben und Lernen gGmbH and DIAKOVERE Krankenhaus Annastift gGmbH, but also engages in its own activities. It is a foundation in trusteeship of Annastift e.V.

More information is available at [www.schoenerheit.de](http://www.schoenerheit.de), [www.juliakrahn.com](http://www.juliakrahn.com), and [www.diakovere.de](http://www.diakovere.de).

**The press kit and press images are available for download at**  
[www.schoenerheit.com/presse](http://www.schoenerheit.com/presse)

#### Digital catalog preview

[www.schoenerheit.com/Julia\\_Krahn\\_Schoenerheit\\_Catalogue.pdf](http://www.schoenerheit.com/Julia_Krahn_Schoenerheit_Catalogue.pdf)

**Press preview:** 19 May 2016, 11 a.m. The artist will be present.

**Opening:** 19 May 2016, 6 p.m. Opening speeches by Bishop Ralf Meister; Jutta Wendland-Park, board member, Hanns-Lilje-Stiftung; Dr. Ulrich Spielmann, Managing Director of Diakovere Annastift Leben und Lernen gGmbH. The artist will be present.

#### Accompanying Program (in German)

Every Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Dialogue tours with guests

Sundays, 10 a.m. (on 29 May, 11 a.m.; on 12 June, 7 p.m.)

Church services featuring the exhibition

Sunday, 12 June, 7 p.m.

Video church service along with the Evangelische Studierendengemeinde

#### Exhibition Venue

St. Johannis Church, Johanniskirchhof 2, 37073 Göttingen, Germany

#### Opening Hours

Wednesday to Friday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission free.

#### Project Management



ANNA VON BORRIES  
STIFTUNG

#### Project Partner



#### Supporter



#### Press Contact

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**Exhibition Dates for *Julia Krahn: Schönerheit – Song of Songs in Pictures***

<b>City</b>	<b>Exhibition venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Göttingen	St. Johannis Church	19 May – 22 June 2016
Bremerhaven	Kulturkirche Pauluskirche	28 Aug. – 23 Sept. 2016
Hildesheim	Michaeliskloster, conference center	24 Oct. – mid-Dec. 2016
Verden	Verden Cathedral	May/June 2017
Hanover	Marktkirche	2018 (planned for spring)

**Exhibition Dates for the Group Exhibition *Kunst trotz Handicap***

With a selection of works from the project *Schönerheit – Song of Songs in Pictures*

<b>City</b>	<b>Exhibition venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Leipzig	Baumwollspinnerei, Hall 12	1 Mar. – 11 Apr. 2016
Kassel	Documenta Hall	16 Aug. – 21 Sept. 2016
Hanover	Marktkirche	21 Sept. – 19 Oct. 2016
Bremen	Kulturkirche St. Stephani	10 Feb. – 10 Mar. 2017
Apolda	Landesgartenschau	29 Apr. – 31 May 2017

## Julia Krahn – CV

Julia Krahn was born in Jülich and grew up in Aachen (Germany). To devote herself completely to photography, in 2000 she leaves medical school at the *Albert Ludwig Universität Freiburg* (Germany) and moves to Milan (Italy), where in 2001 she starts her collaboration with the *Galleria Magrorocca*. In 2003 she inaugurates her first solo shows *Schatten* and *Von Gaensen und Elefanten*. Different group shows follow between Italy, London (Great Britain), Tokyo (Japan). In 2007 she opens her solo show *The Creation of Memory* at *Galleria Magrorocca* in Milan. In 2008 she is selected for participation in the *Biennial of Tehran* (Istanbul) and wins the second *Prize San Fedele*, Milan. In 2009 she wins the Special mention in the *Tequila Cuervo Centenario Award for Emerging artist - Zona Maco Art Fair*, Mexico City (Mexico). In 2010 she exhibits at the *Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa* in Venice, participates in the group show *Mutter at the Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten* in Graz (Austria) and inaugurates her soloshow *Ja, Ich Will!* at *Zirkumflex* in Berlin (Germany). With her solo show *Angelus Militans* in Milan in 2011 she starts her collaboration with *Carlotta Testori Studio*. In 2012 she opens her solo show *Lilies and Linen* at *Accart* in Bozen (Italy) and *Mother Loves You* at *Voice Gallery* in Marrakech (Marocco). The same year she gets selected finalist at the *Premio Combat 2012*. In 2013 she opens her solo shows *Leidenschaften* at the *Stiftung St. Matthäus* in Berlin and *Beyond Belief* at the *Museum Musei Civici Imola* (Italy) and participates at several group shows. In 2014 she opens her solo show *Trust me at HdKK* in Stuttgart (Germany) and she wins the 1st prize *100<sup>3</sup> - 100 artisti - 100 stanze* at the *Art Hotel Gran Paradiso* in Sorrento (Italy), where her work *Sirens* is permanently exposed. In 2015 she opens *It might have been a pigeon*, solo show at the *Museum Diocesano* di Milano and she exhibits at the *Museo Castelvechio* in Verona (Italy) and *Fondazione Stelline* di Milano, and on that she publishes *Last Supper - Julia Krahn*. The same year her work is present at the *Landesmuseum Hannover* (Germany) at the show *Madonna Woman-Mother-Idol*, at the *Lentos Kunstmuseum* at Linz (Austria) for *Rabenmütter* and she returns to *Kultum* in Graz (Austria) to show at *Reliqte Reloaded*. In 2016 she shows for the first time *SchönerHeit*.

**PRESS IMAGES**

**SchönerHeit – Song of Songs in Pictures**

Available for download at [www.schoenerheit.com/presse](http://www.schoenerheit.com/presse)

**All photos courtesy the artist © Julia Krahn**

Julia Krahn: Lukas. SchönerHeit, 2013–2016



Julia Krahn: Sabrina. SchönerHeit, 2013–2016



Julia Krahn: Nicola and Yvonne. SchönerHeit, 2013–2016



Julia Krahn: Crown of Twine. SchönerHeit, 2013–2016



Julia Krahn: Miraculous Plant. SchönerHeit, 2013–2016



Julia Krahn: Berries. SchönerHeit, 2013–2016





DIAKOVERE

**PRESS IMAGES**

**SchönerHeit – Behind the Scenes**

Available for download at [www.schoenerheit.com/presse](http://www.schoenerheit.com/presse)

Photos: Marcel Domeier © Anna von Borries Stiftung.

backstage\_SchoenerHeit\_Sven\_sw.jpg



backstage\_SchoenerHeit\_YvonneNicola\_sw.jpg



backstage\_SchoenerHeit\_Uwe\_sw.jpg

