

Jules Kunhardt in her studio at Noyes, Evanston

BIOGRAPHY

Jules Kunhardt

A multifaceted artist with a message

INTRODUCTION

Jules Kunhardt, born in Paris, France, and currently splitting her time between Grasse, Côte d'Azur, France, and Chicago, is a German artist with a rich and varied background in fine arts, graphic design, and illustration. She has carved a unique space for herself in the contemporary art world. With a body of work that spans across various mediums and themes, Jules masterfully blends her personal and global experiences to create evocative, thought-provoking pieces that challenge viewers to reflect on the world around them.

EDUCATION AND EARLY CAREER

Jules began her artistic journey studying fine arts at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Urbino, Italy, before continuing her studies at the University of Passau in Bavaria, Germany. She eventually earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Applied Sciences in Münster, Germany. During her early career, Jules worked as a freelance graphic designer and illustrator, creating commissioned works for various publications and clients.

ECLECTIC THEMES AND TECHNIQUES

One of the defining characteristics of Jules Kunhardt's work is her ability to tackle a wide range of subjects with grace, humor, and a keen eye for detail. From classic children's portraits to hard-hitting social commentaries, Jules's pieces are united by a common thread: a desire to give importance to her subjects while maintaining a sense of hope and playfulness.

A recurring theme in Jules's work is her love for chickens, roosters, and goats. She frequently returns to these subjects with drawings and paintings inspired by the animals she used to have in her backyard. Jules describes them as

> *"whimsical subjects, amusing creatures, and easy to depict because they're expressive and more lighthearted than, say, a horse."*

Jules's work showcases her training as a graphic designer and her affinity for lines and shapes. Her various techniques include the use of superfine ink pens and broad oil color sticks, which she employs to strike a delicate balance between simplicity and playfulness in her pieces.

NOTABLE SERIES AND EXHIBITIONS

In recent years, Jules has taken on several ambitious series and exhibitions, tackling complex and significant topics that resonate with audiences. Her “Colony Collapse Disorder” series, inspired by the mysterious disappearance of bees, aims to raise awareness about the importance of pollination and the beauty of insects.

Another impactful series, “Eating Animals,” was born from Jules's reading of Jonathan Safran Foer's book of the same name. This collection of works examines meat consumption, factory farming, and its environmental impact, demonstrating Jules's ability to confront challenging issues through her art.

Her “Alzheimer's” series pays tribute to her aunt, who was diagnosed with the disease. Through this deeply personal and emotional collection, Jules gives voice to those who have lost theirs and depicts the fear of losing one's identity.

One of Jules's recent standout pieces is a painting of Amanda Gorman, the young poet who recited her powerful poem at the U.S. presidential inauguration. This work has garnered much praise and has been featured in multiple exhibitions in both France and the United States.

RECOGNITION AND INVOLVEMENT

Jules Kunhardt's work has been recognized with numerous awards and featured in exhibitions throughout the United States and Europe. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Jules has dedicated her time to teaching art and working with refugees, sharing her passion and skills with those in need.

Furthermore, Jules organizes artist retreats in Grasse, Côte d'Azur, France, where she and other artists teach and share their expertise. These retreats offer a unique opportunity for participants to immerse themselves in an inspiring environment and learn from artists like Jules and her peers. By fostering a sense of community and collaboration, Jules helps to elevate the artistic experience for both aspiring and established artists alike.

CONCLUSION

Jules Kunhardt's artistic journey is a testament to her commitment to personal growth, self-expression, and using her talents to bring awareness to important issues. As she continues to create thought-provoking, compelling works of art, Jules's impact on the art world is undoubtedly far-reaching. Through her varied body of work, her passion for teaching, and her role in organizing artist retreats in the picturesque Côte d'Azur, Jules demonstrates the transformative power of art and the importance of fostering connections within the artistic community.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jules Kunhardt

EDUCATION

1996	Master of Arts, University of Applied Sciences, Münster, Germany
1992	University of Passau, Germany
1991	Accademia di Belle Arti, Urbino, Italy

SOLO SHOWS

2024	*Feathered Masterpieces*, Pour, Chicago, IL
2024	*Chicken/Rooster/Goat*, Galerie Casa Blu, Valbonne, France
2022	*Retrospective of 12 Years Chicago*, Fulton Market District, Chicago
2022	*All About Chicken*, Gallery Space 900, Evanston, IL
2020	*About Bees*, 1100 Florence Gallery, Evanston, IL
2015	*Memoir I Am*, Co-Star Studio, Evanston, IL
2014	*Chicken and Goats*, 800 Elgin Lobby, Evanston, IL
2014	*Meet Your Meat*, Hevanston Gallery, Evanston, IL
2014	*Meet Your Meat*, Arterie Fine Arts Gallery, Naperville, IL
2012	*Meet Your Meat*, Studio 1610, Evanston, IL
2009	*Strichhuhn*, Porz, Germany
2006	*Hühner*, Atelier Köln-Deutz, Germany
2001	*Was, wenn's doch stimmt?*, Porz, Germany
1993	*Gut behütet*, Städtisches Krankenhaus Münster, Germany
1992	Art Happening, *Zur Ehre Gottes – oder einfach nur so*, upper right tower of Cologne Cathedral, Germany

CURATED EXHIBITIONS

2016	*Spring Show*, Co-Star, Evanston, IL
2013	*Blooming*, Co-Star, Evanston, IL
2001	*2000 Jahre die Bibel*, live concert and exhibition, Porz, Germany

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

since 2009	Commissioned portraits of children and adults
2015–2020	Art and ESL classes with refugees, Heartland Association, Chicago
2007	Teaching art at the Naserian School, Malambo, Tanzania
2000–2006	Art direction, theater and set design, FeG Mittendrin, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany
1996	Monitor at *Wrapped Reichstag* by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Berlin, Germany
1994–1998	Freelance graphic designer, Kunhardt & Co, Cologne, Germany
1994	Commissioned illustrations for the magazine *Glauben & Leben*, Germany

GROUP SHOWS AND AWARDS

2023	*Once upon in America*, Valbonne, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France
2021	*Evanston Made* Painting Group Show, Evanston, IL
2021	Evanston + Vicinity Biennial, Evanston, IL
2020	*Touch*, WomanMade, Chicago, IL
2020	*Create-in-Place*, Waterstreet Studio, Batavia, IL
2019	*Wings and Water*, Biennial, River Arts, WI
2019	*Small Works*, Limner Gallery, New York, NY
2018	*Faces Not Forgotten*, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL
2017	*Landschaften*, The Saw Room, Evanston, IL
2016	*Artificial Turf*, Co-Star Studios, Evanston, IL
2015	*Unforgettable Art*, Alzheimer's Association, Rockford, IL
2014	Best of Show, Morpho Gallery, Chicago, IL
2014	*Proofs for Purchase*, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, IL
2014	Biennial Exhibition, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL
2014	Second prize, *Reflections*, Arterie Fine Arts Gallery, Naperville, IL
2013	*Next Wave*, Art Salon, Elgin, IL
2013	First prize, *Distortion*, Arterie Fine Arts Gallery, Naperville, IL
2013	Printmaking Show, Evanston Art Center, with *Carnal Desire*, Evanston, IL
2012	*Inchworks*, North Shore Art League, Winnetka, IL

PRESENTATIONS AND PRESS

2021	Featured artist on the cover with *Amanda Gorman*, Artistonish Magazine, Ontario, Canada
2016	International Art Talk, Cultural Bridge, DANK Haus, Chicago, IL
2015	Live performance, *Unforgettable Art*, Alzheimer's Association, Rockford, IL
2015	*Alzheimer's* at Maker's Salon, Chicago, IL
2014	Featured artist, *Thought Notebook Journal*, First Time
2013	Lecture, Women in the Arts, Woodland Academy, Lake Forest, IL
2012	Cover of the Evanston Art Center catalogue