

Biography

1932

Gerhard Richter is born on February 9 in Dresden.
Grows up in Reichenau and in Waltersdorf in Upper Lusatia.

1948

Graduates from business school in Zittau.

1949

Becomes an assistant at a banner workshop in Zittau.

1950

Trains as a scene painter at the city theater in Zittau.
Applies to study at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste (Academy of Fine Arts) in Dresden, but is rejected.
Employed as a painter at the VEB textile works in Zittau.

1951

Richter is admitted to the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Dresden.

1953

Main course of studies is mural painting, taught by Heinz Lohmar.

1956

Paints the mural *Lebensfreude* (Joy of Life) at the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum in Dresden as part of his graduation project.

1957

His three-year stipend as a research student includes a studio at the Dresden academy.

1959

Visits the Documenta II in Kassel.

1961

Flees East Germany.
Moves to Düsseldorf.
Begins studying at the Staatliche Kunstakademie (State Academy of Art) in Düsseldorf under Ferdinand Macketanz.

1962

Forms friendships with Konrad Lueg (Fischer), Sigmar Polke, and Blinky Palermo.
Transfers to the class taught by Karl Otto Götz.

1963

Demonstrative Ausstellung (Demonstrative Exhibition) in a storefront at Kaiserstrasse 31A in Düsseldorf with Manfred Kuttner, Lueg, and Polke.
Performance and exhibition *Leben mit Pop – eine Demonstration für den kapitalistischen Realismus* (Life with Pop—a Demonstration for Capitalist Realism) at the Berges furniture store, Düsseldorf, with Lueg.

1964

Completes his studies.

Exhibition at the Galerie Friedrich + Dahlem, Munich (with Peter Klasen).

First solo shows at the Galerie Schmela, Düsseldorf, and the Galerie René Block, Berlin.

Exhibition at the Galerie Parnass, Wuppertal, with Lueg and Polke.

1966

Exhibition at the Galerie h, Hanover, with Polke.

1967

Substitute professorship at the Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg.

Receives the Kunstpreis junger westen (New Western Artists Prize) from the City of Recklinghausen.

1969

Solo show at the Aachen art society Zentrum für aktuelle Kunst – Gegenverkehr.

1970

Travels to New York with Palermo.

1971

Professorship at the Staatliche Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf.

Solo show at the Düsseldorf Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen.

1972

Exhibits in the German pavilion at the 36th Venice Biennale.

Invited to exhibit at the Documenta in Kassel for the first time.

1973

First solo show in New York, at the Onnasch Gallery.

1975

Exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bremen, subsequently at the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels.

1977

Solo show at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris.

1978

Guest professorship at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax.

1982

Receives the Arnold Bode Prize from the City of Kassel.

Exhibition of abstract paintings at the Kunsthalle Bielefeld and at the Mannheimer Kunstverein.

1983

Moves to Cologne.

1985

Richter is awarded Austria's Oskar Kokoschka Prize.

1986

Retrospective at the Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, later shown at the Nationalgalerie, Berlin, the Kunsthalle Bern, and the Museum moderner Kunst/Museum des 20.

Jahrhunderts, Vienna.

1988

Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Paintings* at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D. C.

Guest professorship at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main.

Richter is awarded the Kaiserring art prize by the City of Goslar.

Creates his fifteen-part cycle of paintings, *October 18, 1977*.

1989

Solo show at the Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam.

Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Paintings* at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

1991

Retrospective at Tate Gallery, London.

1993

Retrospective at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, later shown at the Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, at Moderna Museet, Stockholm, and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid.

1994

Gives up his position at the Staatliche Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf.

1995

Richter is awarded the Wolf Prize in Jerusalem.

1996

Moves to a new studio on the outskirts of Cologne.

1997

Receives the Golden Lion at the 47th Venice Biennale.

Awarded the Praemium Imperiale for painting in Tokyo.

1998

Richter receives the Wexner Prize in Columbus, Ohio.

The exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Landscapes* is shown at the Sprengel Museum Hannover.

1999

Black, Red, Gold is installed in the German Reichstag.

2000

Richter receives the State Prize of North Rhine-Westphalia.

2001

Richter is awarded an honorary doctorate by the Catholic University of Leuven.

2002

Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Forty Years of Painting* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and subsequently at the Art Institute of Chicago, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

2003

Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Forty Years of Painting* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D. C.

2004

Three rooms of works by Richter open in the Albertinum at the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.

2005

Retrospective *Gerhard Richter* at the K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; later shown at the Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich.
Exhibition at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, and at the Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art, Sakura.

2007

Made an honorary citizen of the City of Cologne.
Richter's *Cathedral Window* for the south transept of Cologne Cathedral is dedicated.

2008

Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Paintings from Private Collections* at the Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, and the National Gallery Complex, Edinburgh.
Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Paintings 1963–2007* at the National Art Museum of China, Beijing.
Exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Overpainted Photographs* at the Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen.

2009

Exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Portraits* at the National Portrait Gallery, London.
Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Paintings from Private Collections* at the Albertina, Vienna, and the MKM Museum Küppersmühle für Moderne Kunst, Duisburg.
Exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Overpainted Photographs* at the Centre de la Photographie Genève, and at the Fundación Telefónica, Madrid.

2010

The Albertinum at the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden reopens with two galleries devoted to Richter's work.

2011

Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Panorama* at Tate Modern, London.

2012

Atlas exhibition at the Kunsthalle im Lipsiusbau, Dresden.
Retrospective *Gerhard Richter: Panorama* at the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris.
Exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Dessins et aquarelles 1957–2008*, at the Musée du Louvre, Paris.

2013

Exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Strips & Glass* in the Albertinum at the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.
The exhibition *Gerhard Richter – ATLAS MIKROMEGA* is presented in the Kunstbau at the Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich.

2014

Exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Strips & Glass* in the Albertinum at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur.
Exhibition *Gerhard Richter: Pictures/Series* at the Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel.

Gerhard Richter lives and works in Cologne.