



WE

50 years of diplomatic relationship
between the UAE and Germany

honoured through art by

Petra Kalltenbach 

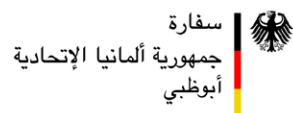
القنصلية العامة
لجمهورية ألمانيا الاتحادية
دبي



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Abu Dhabi

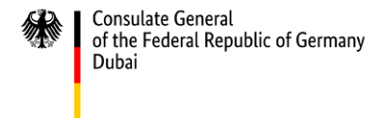


photo credits: picture alliance Carsten Koall



A recently published book asks “What is diplomacy? An art, a craft? Or something in between?”.* Paying tribute to the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Federal Republic of Germany, the Dubai-based German artist Petra Kaltenbach has taken these questions quite literally. We are delighted to present “WE” – hybrid artworks that visualise the art of diplomacy and how this is reflected in German-Emirati bilateral relations. The works were specially commissioned by the German Consulate in Dubai together with the German Embassy in Abu Dhabi as a token of the friendship between our two countries marking the golden jubilee of our diplomatic relations.

“WE” appreciates that diplomacy aims to maintain international peace, security and friendly relations among nations. In particular, Petra Kaltenbach’s paintings and videos celebrate the intensive diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and Germany. The artist was guided by milestones in our two countries’ relations. These include the strategic partnership agreed in 2004 and the joint declaration of intent on the occasion of the visit to Berlin by H.H. Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi (at that time Crown Prince) in 2019. These strong bonds were recently reinvigorated by Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s visit to Abu Dhabi in September 2022.



We are looking forward to further strengthening our ties and expanding our partnership in the years to come. We trust that, together, we will make full use of the great potential for cooperating in fields such as energy security, climate action, science and research, as well as educational and cultural affairs and humanitarian aid. We are confident that we will continue to find new and innovative ways to further enhance and deepen our relations, just as artist Petra Kaltenbach is bridging the gap between art and the digital world by presenting all pieces in this collection also as NFTs (non fungible tokens). Together with the business community and the cultural scene, let us step up our cooperation and work intensively to build our two countries’ joint future!


Alexander Schönfelder

Ambassador of the
Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Arab Emirates


Sybille Pfaff

Consul General of the
Federal Republic of Germany
in Dubai

*The Art of Diplomacy: 75 Views Behind the Scenes of World Policies, published by T. Bunde & B. Franke, Munich Security Conference, February 2022 (original title: “Die Kunst der Diplomatie”)



Petra Kaltenbach is a fine artist, video artist, graphic designer and curator. Born in Duisburg, Germany in 1962, Petra began her career as a graphic designer and held the position as managing director and partner of an advertising agency in Germany from 1991 – 2002.

Petra moved to Dubai in 2004, where she witnessed rapid and unprecedented growth in the urban environment around her. Later, in 2015, she dedicated herself full time to her art. With her background in graphic design, she transitioned into painting and video art often intertwining her paintings with embedded technology such as QR codes. More recently, Petra has begun to make NFTs (non-fungible tokens) of her art.

In 2016, Petra was shortlisted by the International Emerging Artist Award - IEAA in 2016 and in 2018, her video art was accepted to be shown on the façade of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. That same year, she was awarded the title of best UAE-resident artist at World Art Dubai. She was also sponsored by Canon, who gave her a year-long sponsorship due to her work with their printing technology. The artist continues to collaborate with Canon on special projects by incorporating their UV-printing technology into her paintings. Since 2019, Petra has been part of the curatorial team at World Art Dubai, one of the biggest art fairs in the Middle East.

- 2015 - development of her QR-Art
 - full time artist
- 2016 - shortlisted for the IEAA Award
- 2017 - Shortlisted video for Burj Khalifa facade
 - Shortlisted for the World Art Dubai Award
 - Canon Sponsorship for 1 year
- 2018 - Finalist for Burj Khalifa facade
 - Finalist of the World Art Dubai Award: Best UAE-Resident Artist
 - Sponsored by the German Embassy
- 2019 - Curator of World Art Dubai-till present
 - Co-Creating a fashion line with the label ROXX Fashion
 - Sponsored by the German Consulate General
- 2021 - awarded with the 10y Cultural / Golden Visa by Dubai Arts and Culture Authority
- 2021 - First NFT launched with MORROW Collective
- 2022 - Art Dubai Digital
- 2022 - Winner Web3 Award from Gulf News for the 'Best Emerging NFT Artist'
- 2022 - WE_50 years diplomatic relationship between Germany and the UAE honoured through art

Artwork Statement

WE

Petra Kaltenbach, who has been creating video art since 2015, repeatedly creates hybrid artworks that show both a painted and a digital work on the same subject. She links the two works either through a QR code or also through augmented reality. Since 2021 Petra also creates NFTs.

The art project is under the name WE

The artworks are all based on the idea of transformation - which in itself is shown by the scanning of the physical art image and the subsequent transformation into an art video and the idea of what defines a partnership.

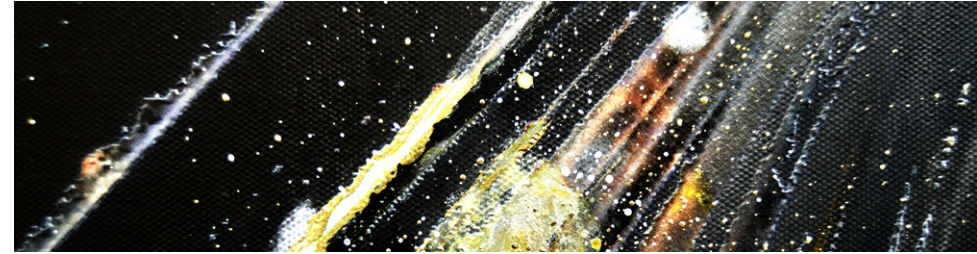
The WE means reaching goals and ideals together, experiencing developments together - a common route that intensifies over time and brings forth more and more fruits. A common route means approaching, exchanging, changing one's own views, developing new perspectives. All this is transformation. And the closer you get to each other, the more you master common challenges, the more you transform and the stronger the WE becomes.



EVERYTHING FLOWS

VIEW THE VIDEO:

<https://youtu.be/NEAn0SjvT4w>



EVERYTHING FLOWS

2022, Dubai, UAE, 150 x 85 cm,
Acrylic and UV-print on canvas

This artwork is about the continued movement / relationship, about the liveliness caused by mutual inspiration and the resulting progress. A true togetherness is never static, but flows without, however, losing the balance or maintaining the center line in any case.



Artive
Artive GmbH

ÖFFNEN

Download ARTIVE
App and scan all the art
via Augmented Reality.

You will see the related art video.

All physical artworks are coming with a matching artvideo.



THE UNITY OF US

VIEW THE VIDEO:

<https://youtu.be/sdVpDtDyOCw>

THE UNITY OF US

2022, Dubai, UAE, 150 x 85 cm,
Acrylic and UV-print on canvas

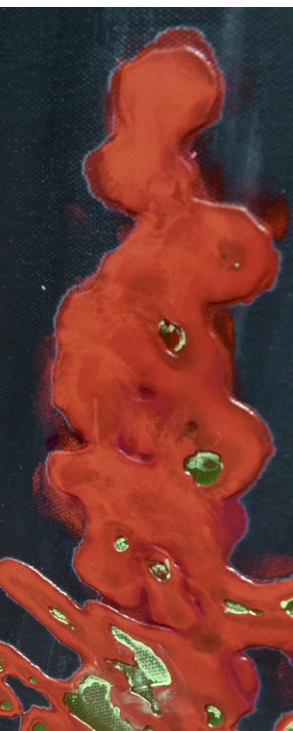
When 2 parties build a relationship and pursue a common goal, a pattern, a web of relationships emerges and over time a transformation from ME to WE results.

In the best case a unity emerges. This unity is one of the great values/ideals of Sheik Zayed -the 'father' of the UAE, but also of Germany. Germany celebrates German Unity Day to commemorate German reunification in 1990. Both countries live the unification, the German missions in the UAE even dedicate this year's German Unity Day to the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with the UAE.

This artwork shows on the one hand the wonderful ongoing movement that keeps a relationship alive and on the other hand the balance that a good relationship has among equal partners - represented by an aesthetic mesh with overlying ME-WE rotations.

The ME and the WE are not so different... and yet one must rotate on its axis before making the step from ME to WE. This is a symbol of the tireless efforts partners make to live a harmonious relationship.





RE-INVENTING

2022, Dubai, UAE, 150 x 85 cm,
Acrylic and UV-print on canvas

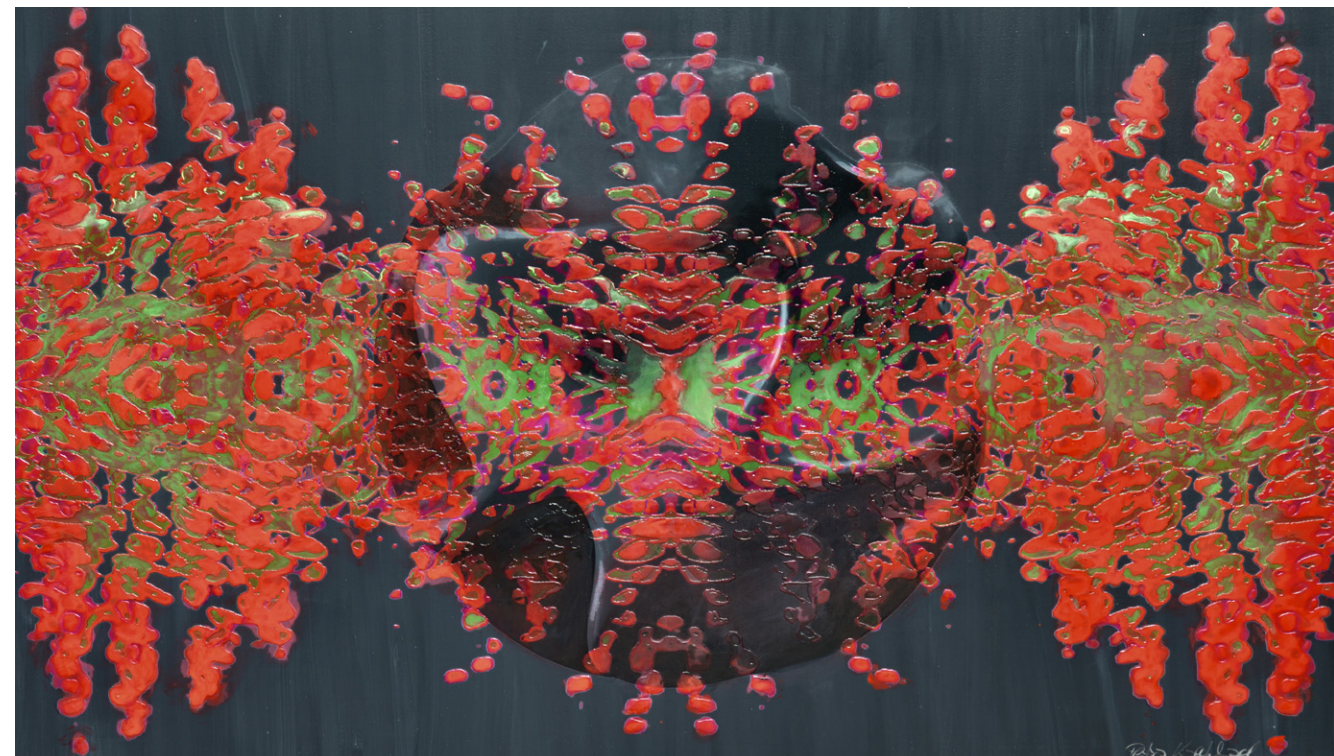
The Emirates are a country and Dubai is a city that is constantly reinventing itself. Even a friendship like the German-Emirati one has to reinvent itself again and again and get new impulses through new ideas ("re-inventing"). This is true for both the economic (energy reform, etc.) and the cultural spheres, and it is also true for the political sphere.

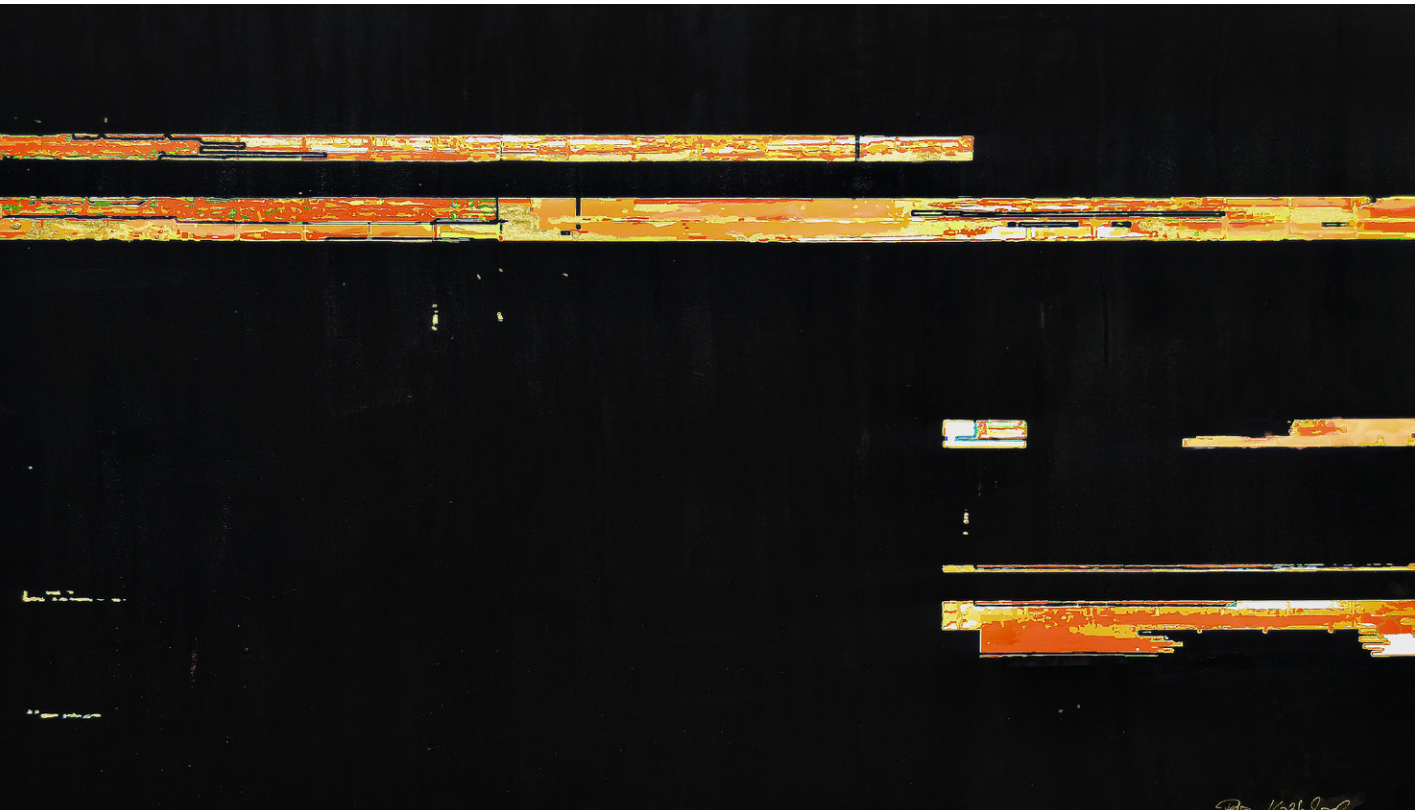
In terms of form and content, Petra Kaltenbach sees a basic structure in whose conditions something new develops, taking up parts of this basic structure, but bringing in new impulses.

VIEW THE VIDEO:

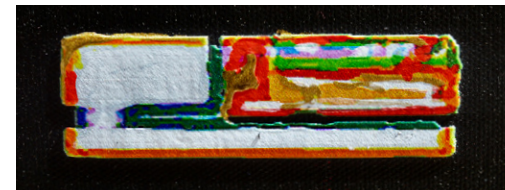
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RE-INVENTING





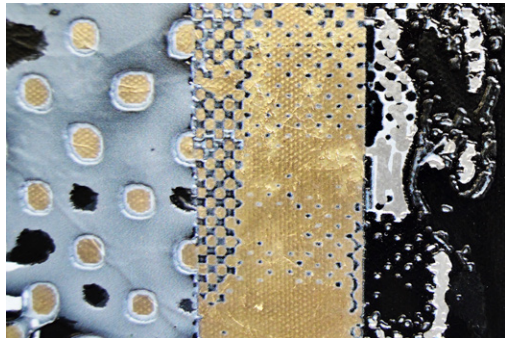
EXCHANGE
 VIEW THE VIDEO:
https://youtu.be/U27-XrxCX_c



EXCHANGE

2022, Dubai, UAE, 150 x 85 cm,
 Acrylic and UV-print on canvas

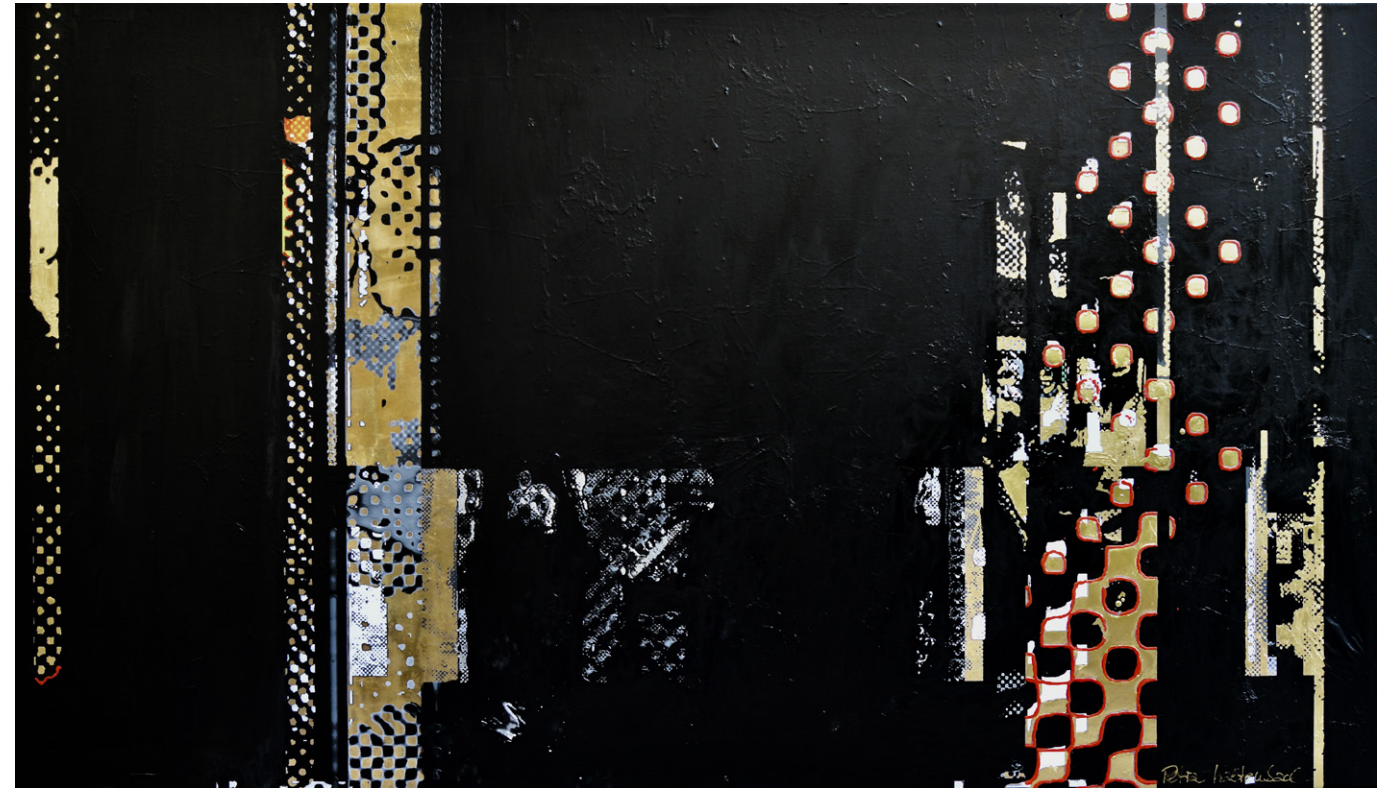
A good partnership or relationship always offers a platform for constant exchange - in form of values, thoughts, ideas, projects, data, etc. Think of zoom calls or emails, indispensable media in an international partnership.



MILESTONES

2022, Dubai, UAE, 150 x 85 cm,
Acrylic and UV-print on canvas

Milestones was born out of the 50-year history of diplomatic relations between the UAE and Germany. In the beginning the exchange was quite sporadic. Each of the 'art-bars' on the artwork is an alienated element from a photo taken during those times. You can clearly see that the bars have increased in the last third, as well as the diplomatic events have increased in the last years.



MILESTONES
VIEW THE VIDEO:
<https://youtu.be/4yvQ5Qi5dCY>

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Petra Kaltenbach



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