

Heike Krause (TrashmaidBerlin)

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Artist Profile

Heike Krause, known under the name TrashmaidBerlin, is a Berlin-based artist rooted in Street Art and active in Trash Art since 2018. She transforms found waste – primarily debris from marine beaches and Berlin's streets – into visually striking, socially engaged artworks. Her work addresses the global plastic crisis and its local manifestations, often placing art directly in public spaces. With a professional background in advertising and communication, she uses visual culture as a tool for environmental awareness and public dialogue.

In 2025, she won first prize in the category "Worldwide" at the international Trash Art Awards organized by *The Trash Traveler* with her work *Flight 281*. The award recognizes her ability to translate ecological issues into art with both formal clarity and emotional depth. The winning piece – a sculpture made from 281 collected cigarette butts and plastic fragments from marine beaches – exemplifies her artistic approach: socially critical, precisely composed, and rooted in a global context.

Education & Training

Preliminary Diploma in Society and Business Communication, University of the Arts (Hochschule der Künste), Berlin, Germany

Certified Advertising Specialist (Geprüfte Werbekauffrau), Berlin

Professional Background

Graphic Designer and Advertising Professional

Several years of residence in Thessaloniki, Greece, working in the publications department of a European Union agency

Longtime Street Artist; active in Trash Art since 2018

Exhibitions & Public Art

2024 – Solo exhibition *Trash my Way*, October–November, German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt), Dessau, Germany

2024 – Permanent installation *Berlin Flag*, Illuseum, Berlin

2021–2025 – Public art projects for *Gretlwand*, Berlin

2021–2025 – Participation in Street Art festivals in Goch (Germany), London, Manchester and York (UK), Naples (Italy), Bordeaux (France)

Various street installations and interventions across Germany and Europe

Collaborations & Community Projects

Collective art projects addressing marine and urban pollution:

2025 – *NETWORKING*

2024 – *OPEN YOUR EYES*

2023 – *LAST CALL*

2022 – *HELL'S KITCHEN*

2022 – *UNITED STAR OF EUROPE*

Volunteer Ambassador for MBRC The Ocean, supporting global awareness about ocean pollution

Environmental Education & Art

2025 – *PLASTIKPFADE – Waste without Borders*, environmental education initiative in Berlin. Art and information booth featuring specially designed posters and the educational brochure *PLASTIKPFADE*. Supported by the German Foundation for Civic Engagement and Volunteering (*Deutsche Stiftung für Engagement und Ehrenamt*).

Publications & Nominations

2025 – Winner of the Trash Art Award 2025 (Category “Worldwide”) with the work *Flight 281*, awarded by *The Trash Traveler*.

2025 (to be published in October) – Featured in the *Social Art Award Book 2025* with the project *THE UNITED STAR OF EUROPE*, one of eleven artworks nominated by the jury of the Institute for Art and Innovation.

2024 – Nominated for the Better World Award by *BioMarkt* with the project *TRASH BINGO*, one of ten shortlisted projects.

Media coverage and interviews: trashmaidberlin.de/INFO/VEROeffENTLICHUNGEN

Artistic Focus & Values

- Trash Art as a form of environmental and urban activism
- Integration of Street Art's collaborative and democratic spirit into Trash Art practice
- Focus on plastic pollution—from the sea to the city streets
- Art for the public: accessible, direct, within and beyond traditional institutions
- Committed to global collaboration and cross-cultural engagement