

Translation of the article "Kunst mit Flammenwerfer" from 26th edition 2023/2024 of the brochure "Blankenfelde-Mahlow-Kompakt" (Seiten: 16-17) – Stand November 2023

Art with flamethrower

Hot art with fire and flame now comes from Mahlow.

This happens in the truest sense of the word. Here, an Italian woman is in action with a "flamethrower" to create colourful images. In doing so, Laura Longoni is following in the footsteps of her great compatriot Leonardo da Vinci.

Numbers, languages, colours

Like him, she brings numbers and creativity together: For a start, she saw no contradiction between her degree in business administration, her work as a financial accountant and her creative streak. "People are diverse," is how the artist from Cologno Monzese sums it up. Because she also has a penchant for languages, it was clear to her that she would take up the opportunity to study at Berlin's Humboldt University in 2012. Her good knowledge of German helped her. Without hesitation, she moved from the community of 48,000 inhabitants near the northern Italian city of Milan to Berlin in northern Germany.

Moving with mum

She now feels really at home in her detached house in Mahlow's Musikerviertel neighbourhood. She lives there "with her family". But that doesn't mean her husband and children. Instead, mum Doriane Longoni and brother Mauro Longoni, who works as an order picker at the post office, came to Germany with her. Laura Longoni, 37, remembers having a great fondness for crayons even as a small child. As she unfortunately failed to learn to draw, she has now opted for "abstract art". "I always use canvas as a background. As I experiment a lot with acrylic colours, paper is out of the question," she explains.

Art as liberation

She sees her art as "relaxation" for herself. The pictures seem planned, although, according to the artist, they are not. Laura Longoni enjoys the colourfulness. The colours are used in visible coordination. Whether worked with the flambé burner, whereby the colours form their own patterns due to the heat, or using other techniques, the works captivate with their appealing unity. In contrast to Leonardo da Vinci, who seamlessly combined maths, technology and art, Laura Longoni's incentive to paint is now "too many numbers". She now feels "trapped" by this and sees art as a liberation.

Round or polygonal?

She has made ample use of this in the meantime. She has almost a hundred creations in various formats, ranging from large and small to round and angular. "Each of them is a piece of my personality. I can hardly part with them," she says, explaining the problem. This makes it difficult to attract the public's attention.

Versatile to see

The pictures have already inspired fans in several countries. This was possible when she took part in an exhibition at the "Alte Aula" cultural centre in Blankenfelde. In the hot south, her works could be seen in Milan, on Fuerteventura and in Barcelona, Spain. Although the artist enjoys working on her pictures with a hot flame, she does not miss her former, much warmer homeland: "I don't like the heat. I feel much more comfortable in the climate here in northern Germany. I like going out into nature and getting inspired. Autumn in particular, with its colourful leaves, is very fascinating here.