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## Hendrik Wüst

Minister President of NRW

**"My heartfelt congratulations to the Solingen Artists' Colony "Schwarzes Haus"! Its acceptance as a Partner Member in the "European Federation of Artist Colonies" (euroart) is a well-deserved and honourable distinction of European dimension, which at the same time pays tribute to the rich cultural heritage of Nordrhein-Westfalen."**

*Bettina Erbsen, Anneli, Johann Heinen, and Heinen-Steinhoff*



Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation  
Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und internationalen Dialog



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## Tim-O. Kurzbach

Mayor of the City of Solingen

**"This award creates a cultural significance and public visibility at European level that enriches both the Bergisches Land and Rhineland regions and the city of Solingen. This is an important impulse for the cultural life of our city and the region. I would be delighted if the "Black House" would develop into a centre of attraction for people interested in culture from near and far."**

*Bettina Heinen-Ayech Amud. Johann Heinen Eino Heinen-Steinhoff*



Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation  
Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und internationalen Dialog

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## The Story of the Artists' Colony

### The Solingen Artists' Colony

"Black House" owes its origins to the commitment and attraction of intellectuals and free spirits. First and foremost to the work of a very educated, self-confident and emancipated lady Erna Heinen-Steinhoff (1898-1969).



*Bettina & Berta Amud. Johann Heinen Erna Heinen-Steinhoff*



Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation

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## The Story of the Artists' Colony

A meeting place developed for painters, writers, musicians and intellectuals. In this environment, the felt and thought as well as the artistically designed were of far greater importance than the material itself.



*Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff*



**Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation**  
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## The Story of the Artists' Colony

Essentially, the impressive and lasting work of a community of artists took place in this place, which achieved an art-historically significant and lasting rank in the visual arts of the 20th century through its own style, completely detached from the spirit of the times.



*Bettina & Jürgen Amud. Josef Heinen. Eino Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## The Story of the Artists' Colony

Over the years, the literary protagonists were joined by three important painters. Erwin Bowien (1899-1972), Bettina Heinen-Ayech (1937-2020) and Amud Uwe Millies (1932-2008). Together, the three painting protagonists of the colony formed the "Painter Triumvirate" of Solingen.



*Bettina & Erwin. Amud. Johann Heinen. Lisa Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## The spirit of the Artist Colonists

In opposition to the prevailing "spirit of the times" at the time, which favored abstraction in the wake of classical modernism, the Artist Colonists of the "Black House" painted representationally. Oil paints, pastels and watercolors were used.



*Bettina Heinen-Ayech. Arnold. Johann Heinen. Eino Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## The spirit of the Artist Colonists

They created portraits, landscapes, city views and pictorially captured scenes of everyday life. They found their motifs in the green vegetation of their surroundings and on their many and extensive journeys.



*Bettina Heinen-Ayech, Arnold, Johann Heinen, and Heinen-Steinhoff*



Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation

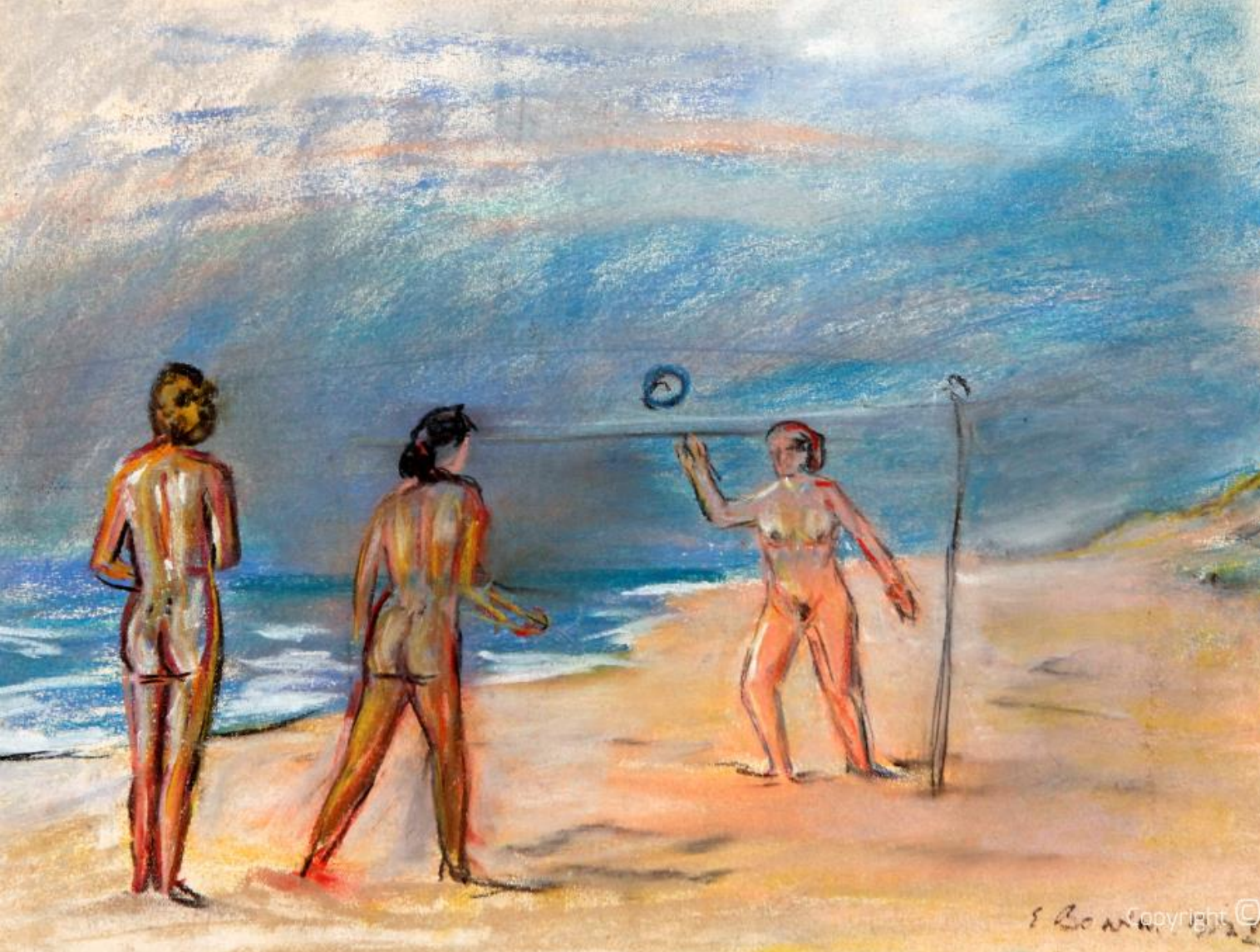
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## The spirit of the Artist Colonists

The idea of international understanding was a major concern of the Artist Colonists. Erwin Bowien, was a European before time and dreamed of a united and peaceful Europe. Bettina Heinen-Ayech was very concerned about bringing both sides of the Mediterranean - Orient and Occident - closer together and Amud Uwe Millies was fascinated by the Middle and Far East, the two parts of America.



*Bettina & Erwin Amud. Johann Heinen Bettina Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## The spirit of the Artist Colonists

The protagonists of the Artists' Colony always had the international dialogue of cultural workers and cooperation across national and cultural borders, such as with residents of Monte Verità at Lago Maggiore, in mind, especially in confusing and confused times marked by exile, expulsion and wars.



*Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen Eino Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## The spirit of the Artist Colonists

The art historian Cristina Streckfuss wrote about the Colony: "If one then risks a look as far as Murnau, the artists' group of the "Blaue Reiter", then the Solingen Artists' Colony is spiritually more related to the avantgarde Parisian salons in the circle around Pablo Picasso, Gertrude and Leo Stein".

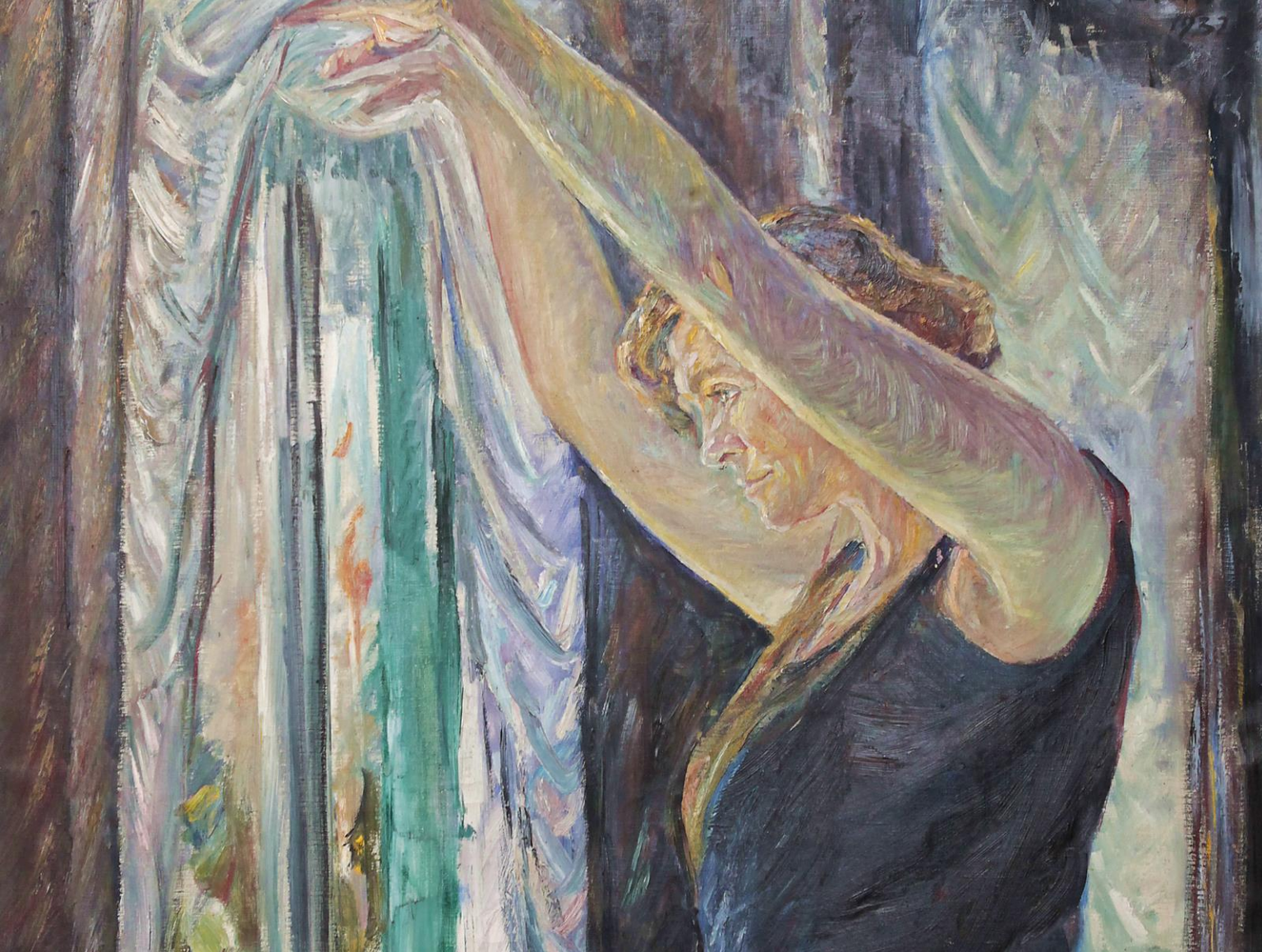
*Bettina Heinen-Ayech. Arnold. Johann Heinrich. Leo Heinen-Steinhoff*



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The Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen

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## Erna Heinen-Steinhoff (1898-1969)

As muse of the arts created Erna Heinen-Steinhoff a literary salon in the manner of the 19th century in Solingen at the beginning of the 1920s.

*Bettina Heinen-Ayech. Amud. Johann Heinen Erna Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Hanns Heinen (1895-1961)

Together with his wife Erna Heinen-Steinhoff, the journalist, author and poet Hanns Heinen became an important patron of the arts.



*Bettina Erbsen Amud. Johann Heinen Erna Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Erwin Bowien (1899–1972)

The first painter of the Artists' Colony, Erwin Bowien, was always a convinced European, long before the idea became popular and thus far ahead of his time.



*Bettina & Erwin Bowien. Amud. Johann Heinen. Erwin Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Erwin Bowien (1899–1972)

Numerous painting trips took Erwin Bowien to Switzerland several times, among other places. Here he created richly colored mountain pictures, which he painted mainly in oils, in contrast to his otherwise light and airy pastels.



Bettina & Erwin Amud. Johann Heinen Eino Heinen-Steinhoff



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## Erwin Bowien (1899–1972)

Erwin Bowien was an opponent of National Socialism and had accepted one last commission in Germany in the winter of 1933 before he was finally forced to go into exile in Holland due to political developments. After the occupation of the Netherlands by the Wehrmacht, he made an adventurous escape through Germany.



*Bettina & Erwin. Amud. Johann Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Erwin Bowien (1899–1972)

In the small Allgäu community of Kreuzthal, Bowien survived the Nazi period illegally in hiding, protected only by the local village policeman. In the meantime, his paintings were confiscated by the Gestapo and the Reich Chamber of Culture issued an exhibition ban.



*Bettina & Erwin Amud. Johann Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff*



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The Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen

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## Bettina Heinen-Ayech (1937–2020)

As the most important painter of the Artist Colony, Bettina Heinen-Ayech shaped an independent, post-impressionist style of art with expressive elements that can rightly claim its place in the art world.

*Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Bettina Heinen-Ayech (1937–2020)

Bettina Heinen-Ayech was considered a tempestuous talent even at a young age, fighting her watercolor battles and receiving encouragement from none other than Karl Schmidt-Rottluff: "Bettina, stay true to yourself!". Despite her youth, her paintings were included in a representative exhibition of modern German art from Beckmann to Kirchner that was sent all over the world.



*Bettina Heinen-Ayech. Amud. Johann Heinen. Eine Heinen-Steinhoff*



Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation  
Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und internationalen Dialog



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## Bettina Heinen-Ayech (1937–2020)

Bettina Heinen-Ayech leaves behind a grandiose, diverse oeuvre and her works are present in museums, archives and public collections in Europe and North Africa. She uncompromisingly painted what she saw and the way she saw it - using a kind of "mosaic technique" and intensive colors.



*Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Amud Uwe Millies (1932–2008)

Amud Uwe Millies wanted to paint, to express himself, and to capture artistically all that revealed itself so impressively and lastingly to his senses and feelings.



*Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen. Eino Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Amud Uwe Millies (1932–2008)

Amud Uwe Millies cultivated a special, individual painting technique by applying the oil paint very discreetly and thinly and was also careful to use very delicate colors. This often gives the impression at first glance that it is not really an oil painting but a pastel.



Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff



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The Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen

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## The “Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation”

The “Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation - Foundation for Art, Culture and International Dialogue” is a non-profit foundation under German law founded in February 2022, dedicated to the legacy of the protagonists of the 'Black House' Artists' Colony in Solingen.

*Bettina Heinen-Ayech, Arnold, Johann Heinen, and Heinen-Steinhoff*



**Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation**

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## The "Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation"

The foundation is committed to the legacy of the Artists' Colony of the "Black House" and its protagonists. It has set itself the task of preserving the artistic work and heritage as well as the writings of the protagonists of the Artists' Colony and of their friends, students and the visitors.



*Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## The “Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation”

The idea of international understanding, open-mindedness and intercultural exchange - this was always a major concern of the Artists' Colonists - is also a major aspiration of our foundation's activities.



*Bettina Heinen-Ayech. Amud. Johann Heinen. Eino Heinen-Steinhoff*



Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation  
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## Museum Project Artists' Colony "Black House"

The Foundation has initiated the project Museum Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen. It sees itself as a pioneer in the creation of a presentation, meeting and documentation place for the Artists' Colony of that time.



*Bettina Heinen-Ayech, Arnold, Johann Heinen, and Heinen-Steinhoff*



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## Exhibition Project Artists' Colony "Black House"

The Foundation has the opportunity to make about 250 works by the painters of the Artists' Colony "Black House" in Solingen available for exhibitions with original paintings - oil paintings, pastels, watercolors and other graphics from all creative phases of the artists Erwin Bowien, Bettina Heinen-Ayech and Amud Uwe Millies.

*Bettina Heinen-Ayech Amud Uwe Millies Erwin Bowien Bettina Heinen-Ayech*



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The Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen

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## The Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen

We are very proud to be a Partner  
Member of the European Federation  
of Artists' Colonies.

*Bettina & Jürgen Amud. Jürgen Heinen und Heinen-Steinhoff*



Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation  
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The Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen

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## The Artists' Colony "Black House" Solingen

Thank you for your attention. It's  
fantastic that we can be part of you.

Donation Account: IBAN: DE64 3006 0601 0047 7253 34,  
Deutsche Apotheker- und Ärztebank.

*Bettina & Bodo Amud. Johann Heinen Eino Heinen-Steinhoff*



**Bettina Heinen-Ayech Foundation**  
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