



## PRESS RELEASE

### Take It Right Back: Works by Paula Doepfner

Berlin-based artist conveys universal stories through use of natural materials

May 5 – July 3, 2015

**Goethe-Institut Washington**  
812 7<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

[www.goethe.de/washington](http://www.goethe.de/washington)

Dropbox images can be downloaded [here](#).



(Washington, DC, April 28, 2015) – In her graphic and sculptural pieces, Berlin-based artist Paula Doepfner works with natural shapes, materials and products such as flowers and ice, alongside iron and glass, as material ways of conveying stories, processes, feelings, and utopias. An exhibition of her works, including one created here in Washington, DC, will open at the Goethe-Institut Washington on Tuesday, May 5 at 6 pm, and continue through July 3, 2015. They will be exhibited alongside student works created during workshops with participants in Prince George's African American Museum's Culture Keepers program.

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Media Contact:  
Norma Broadwater  
202-289-1200, ext. 106  
[nbroadwater@washington.goethe.org](mailto:nbroadwater@washington.goethe.org)

Paula Doepfner. Would you take me unkind,  
2015; For you I have been absent in the spring,  
2012; courtesy Galerie Tanja Wagner, Berlin



Doepfner's often ephemeral works, such as sculptures created from melting ice and flowers, allude to universal stories of fragility and transience, violence and resistance. Doepfner uses natural materials gently in precise processes that may denote decay, damage or corrosion, but lead to beautiful transformation. Renewal is possible; destroyed or frozen plants regrow.

Doepfner's work goes far beyond a naive or futile romanticizing of nature and shows how, despite inevitable changes, manipulations, and processes, new narratives and new aesthetics form. Her works are always seeking for order in emotion and thought. She tries to capture the inconsistency and complexity of inner conditions and address the difficulty of understanding subjective experiences. The ambivalence between the effort of holding on to something and failing in doing so is central to her art. But this awareness doesn't mean resignation – in each of her works the artist gets closer to an inner system of feelings and thoughts which gives room for hope.

**Opening Reception Tuesday, May 5, 6 – 8 pm**

With Berlin-based artist **Paula Doepfner**, **Kirsten Weiss** (Berlin-based curator) and **Chanel Compton** (Prince George's African American Museum workshop curator).

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Gallery hours: Monday to Thursday 9 to 5; Friday 9 to 3.

This exhibition is part of the series "[Forging the Future](#)," organized by the Goethe-Institut and the Alliance Française Washington in relation to the December 2015 Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Paris. Made possible with support from Elysée-Fonds and Friends of the Goethe-Institut.

**About the Goethe-Institut:**

Mutual understanding among nations by promoting international cultural dialogue: this is the ambitious mission of the Goethe-Institut. On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe.

Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language. From its location in the lively Downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both individuals and organizations in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events.

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