In its GDR era, the academy, which is today headed by Neo Rauch, brought forth artists like Rink, Stelzmann, Hachulla and the Ebersbach brothers. It is still regarded as one of the leading academies of art and today plays a decisive role on the German art market.

The galerie aussenalster ® was opened in 2002 with a retrospective of the works of Hans Mayer-Foreyt. During the first two years, the gallery also exhibited the works of some of his contemporaries and former students in Leipzig. Since 2004 the gallery has been dealing exclusively in works of HMF.

In addition to his other surviving woodcuts and subtle lithographies, two of his most famous graphic works of art are „Gegenüber“ („Vis-à-vis“), a huge, suit-clad body seen through glasses from a distance, with a „small“ head, or the graphic „Am Schaltpult“ („At the control panel“) which was designed for the occasion of the commissioning of the nuclear power plant in Greifswald showing a technician surrounded by technology, seeking support from the puppet he is hiding behind his back.

The painting „Der Specht im Walde“ („Woodpecker in the woods“) (1980) which, at first glance, shows a woodpecker flying over a wood, has become the symbol of his spectacular art. Only upon closer inspection does one discern a large number of border guards and their dogs facing one another, with the woodpecker, the symbol of freedom, flying above. While his oil „Es schneit große Flocken“ („Big snowflakes“) was still to be found in every East German schoolbook, his painting „Der Specht im Walde“ provoked a scandal in East Berlin in 1984. His artistic estate also contains some of his unique watercolours and his distinctive southern landscapes, some of which are painted in oil.