

CHOROS AWARD

Semper Opera Ball 2026: Iris Berben, Christian Friedel, and Valerie Eickhoff honored with prestigious award. The CHOROS Award pays tribute to these extraordinary personalities whose artistry, passion, and commitment extend far beyond the stage.

MEISSEN is proud to place this cultural treasure of Saxony—MEISSEN porcelain—in such honorable hands: those of outstanding personalities who thrilled the audience at the Semper Opera Ball with standing ovations, moving acceptance speeches, and spine-tingling moments. On February 6, 2026, the SemperOpernball presented the CHOROS Award 2026 to three brilliant artists. The first award went to acting icon Iris Berben, who thrilled the audience with a magnificent performance in her acceptance speech and is known as a committed cultural and public figure. The second Choros Award went to actor and director Christian Friedel—his talent for combining intensity and sensitivity makes him one of the most promising young faces in the German film landscape. The third award went to the gifted mezzo-soprano Valerie Eickhoff, who enchanted the ball guests with her voice. The Choros Award stands for art that connects and voices that move.



MEISSEN, Europe's first porcelain manufacturer with unique craftsmanship, created the award sculptures as a partner. The SKULPTUR CHOROS sculpture—an abstract dancing couple—captures the dynamism of dance with a wide-swinging dress and rotates around its own axis in elegantly curved S-shapes. The CHOROS Award was inspired by the Greek meaning of choros as a dance floor, a fitting image for a stage where voices merge into melodies. Former MEISSEN chief sculptor Jörg Danielczyk breathed life into the award, ensuring that art, dance, and song can be experienced in a single form. During the award ceremony for actor Christian Friedel, Saxony's Minister President Michael Kretschmer emphasized that this award represents the best Saxony has to offer—MEISSEN porcelain. A message that unites heritage and unique craftsmanship in a single moment.



Among this year's debutantes at the ball, Anne Pertuch stands out in particular: Anne Pertuch comes from Frankenberg near Chemnitz and is currently completing a 3.5-year apprenticeship as a porcelain painter at the MEISSEN porcelain manufactory. This coveted training program is considered an absolute cultural asset and is unique worldwide, as it combines rare expertise and centuries-old craftsmanship with innovation in this form.



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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or require additional information.

Press contact:

Annika Koch

annika.koch@meissen.com

Phone: +49 3521 468 412