

Press release

Zurich, 14 September 2017

Kunsthaus Zürich presents 2018 annual programme

Thematic exhibitions on French painting and fashion, Robert Delaunay and Paris, and an Oskar Kokoschka retrospective are among six projects that the Kunsthaus Zürich has lined up for 2018, as it ranges across the history of art and creates space for large-scale installations in its collection.

PRAISED AND RIDICULED. FRENCH PAINTING 1820–1880

The wide-ranging panorama of 19th-century French painting is on show until 28 January. Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, plein-air painting and Impressionism: the artists working in these styles – figures such as Géricault, Delacroix, Corot, Daumier, Millet, Courbet, Manet, Sisley, Monet and Renoir – turned their backs on the officially sanctioned painting of the era, with its academic and neoclassicist style. Highly controversial in their day, they are now hailed worldwide as the ‘precursors of Modernism’. But 19th-century French painting offers a profusion of other equally important artists who, at the time, enjoyed greater recognition and the plaudits of art critics and audiences alike. Although indebted to traditional painting techniques, artists such as Couture, Meissonier and Gérôme were in some cases highly innovative.

ABRAHAM CRUZVILLEGAS 16.2 – 25.3.18

Receiving his first exhibition in Switzerland is the Mexican artist Abraham Cruzvillegas (b. 1968). In his sculptures and space-filling installations, he investigates architecture as the expression of social conditions. His works are imbued with a sense of constant becoming. Improvisation, working with found materials and interacting with local people play a key role. Cruzvillegas will be transforming the exhibition gallery into a workshop, in which new works will take shape during the exhibition and a range of events will be held. At the end, the new creations will be assembled into a complete installation, transposing the concept of dynamic process that is key to Cruzvillegas’s work into the exhibition format itself.

MAGRITTE, DIETRICH, VALLOTTON. VISIONARY OBJECTIVITY 9.3 – 8.7.18

The emergence of abstraction was a key process in the development of modern art. Yet artists deploying the stylistic resources of representation were also a major influence – as this exhibition demonstrates through a series of masterful works from the Kunsthaus collection, some of which are rarely shown. In the late 19th century, Félix Vallotton captured the visible world with a precision worthy of the Old Masters, but also laid bare its fragility with the acuity of a

psychologist. Meanwhile the 'naive' autodidact Henri Rousseau depicted exquisitely neat, visionary worlds of the imagination. Also represented in the exhibition are the later 'naive' artists André Bauchant, Camille Bombois, Élie Lascaux and Grandma Moses. After the First World War, representational description of the world took a different turn with 'New Objectivity' (Niklaus Stoecklin and Adolf Dietrich). And even Surrealism (René Magritte, Salvador Dalí) drew on the resources of representational art to depict the unconscious.

FASHION DRIVE. EXTREME CLOTHING IN THE VISUAL ARTS 20.4. – 15.7.18

How did artists react to extreme phenomena such as slashed clothing, codpieces, crinolines and the dinner jacket? This exhibition looks at 500 years of vestimentary expression through the prism of art, focusing on the tipping points where fashion is extreme, vibrating, loud, disguised or prohibited. Globalization and homogenization are encouraging the development of 'fast fashion'. A co-production with the Festspiele Zurich, the exhibition, which is exclusive to the Kunsthaus, sets out to counter this with a critical, sensory examination of clothing in the visual arts, covering key moments in fashion history from the late Middle Ages to the present day in painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography and film. With 50 artists, including Joseph Beuys, Giovanni Boldini, Leigh Bowery, Daniele Buetti, Salvador Dalí, Honoré Daumier, Albrecht Dürer, Esther Eppstein, Sylvie Fleury, Emilie Flöge & Gustav Klimt, Natalia Goncharova, K8 Hardy, Herlinde Koelbl, Peter Lindbergh, Manon, Malcolm McLaren & Vivienne Westwood, Mai-Thu Perret, Tula Roy and Christoph Wirsing, Wolfgang Tillmans, Félix Vallotton and Andy Warhol – plus a fashion party on 5 May!

ROBERT DELAUNAY AND THE CITY OF LIGHT 31.8. – 18.11.18

The most comprehensive exhibition of his work in Switzerland is devoted to Robert Delaunay (1885–1941), one of the foremost pioneers of early 20th-century art. This visually engaging presentation is an opportunity to experience the wide-ranging and innovative nature of Delaunay's work, focusing on his central themes: light, colour and the pictorial expression of the process of vision conceived as a deliberate activity. It will also show how, as a passionate advocate and practitioner of abstract art, he became a key figure in the Parisian avant-garde. Including some 80 paintings and works on paper, the exhibition highlights the pivotal role of Paris as stimulus for Delaunay's imagery and pictorial research. Photographs and films by contemporaries who were also inspired by the French capital will complement the display.

OSKAR KOKOSCHKA: A RETROSPECTIVE 14.12.18 – 10.3.19

Oskar Kokoschka (1886–1980) is today regarded as one of the most important artists of the 20th century. On a continent riven by two world wars, in which realistic art had become discredited, here was someone unashamedly arguing for the recognition of figurative art. Throughout his life, he believed in the

inclusive power of art far removed from state propaganda, and this is reflected throughout his oeuvre. The retrospective covers all the techniques Kokoschka used, including oil painting, pastel, drawing, watercolour and print, as well as plays and costume designs. The last Kokoschka retrospective in Switzerland was at the Kunsthaus Zürich in 1986. It is high time, therefore, to reacquaint both a younger generation and long-standing admirers with the spectacular originals of this expressionistic painter and his unmistakable brushwork.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 13TH TO THE 21ST CENTURIES: PRESENT AND ON THE MOVE

The Kunsthaus is structured as both museum and art gallery, and is home to an important collection of paintings, sculptures and installations – works of western art from the 13th century to the present day. Of the approximately 5,000 items, over 350 are on permanent display.

There is no better place than the Kunsthaus Zürich to study the sculptures and paintings of Alberto Giacometti, which also exhibits the largest collection of paintings by Edvard Munch outside Norway. French painting culminates in the three monumental water-lily paintings by Claude Monet. Dada – founded in Zurich – and the geometric Constructivism of the 'Zurich Concretists' Glarner, Bill and Lohse appear alongside international movements. The post-war New York School is here, as are European and American Pop Art. The expressive turn in painting of the 1980s is represented by Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer and Sigmar Polke. From July 2018, this section will be temporarily joined by large installations from Bruce Nauman and others. Photographs, videos and installations by artists such as Jeff Wall, Pipilotti Rist and Peter Fischli/David Weiss lead the way into the 21st century.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The programme can be downloaded from www.kunsthaus.ch. Printed copies will also be available in the museum from 5 October. News of the many current events can be found on Facebook, in the electronic newsletter and in the online diary.

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Fri–Sun/Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m.–8 p.m. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthaus.ch.

Admission to the collection including audioguide (in English, German, French or Italian): CHF 16 / CHF 11 (concessions and groups). Exhibitions: up to CHF 23 / CHF 18 (concessions and groups).

Combination tickets including the collection and exhibition CHF 26 / CHF 19.
Admission free to visitors up to the age of 16.
Free admission, discounts and other benefits with a 2018 annual membership:
adults CHF 115 / couples CHF 195 / children and young people up to 25 years of
age CHF 30.

Advance sales: SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on travel and
admission: at stations and by phoning Rail Service 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min.
by land line), www.sbb.ch/kunsthhaus-zuerich.
Zurich Tourism: hotel room reservations and ticket sales, Tourist Service at Zurich
Main Railway Station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, information@zuerich.com,
www.zuerich.com.

CONTACT AND INVITATION TO EDITORS

The annual media conference, including a detailed briefing from the curators and a
financial review and outlook, takes place at 11 a.m. on 11 January 2018. Registration
is not required. Visual materials are available at kunsthhaus.ch > Information > Press.
Dates and times of all media briefings in 2018 are available now at
www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/information/press/important-dates/press-conferences/

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