

Press release
Zurich, 20 April 2017

Kunsthhaus Zürich extends ‘Vibrant Metropolis / Idyllic Nature. Kirchner – The Berlin Years’

The major exhibition devoted to the Berlin years of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880–1938), which is receiving its first showing in Switzerland, is being extended by two weeks to 21 May 2017 due to popular demand. Kirchner’s work in Germany’s bustling capital city and on the idyllic Baltic Sea island of Fehmarn in the years 1912 to 1914 marks the high point of his Expressionist oeuvre.

LOANS FROM BERLIN, SYDNEY, NEW YORK, MADRID ...

The Kunsthhaus Zürich has secured for two extra weeks the works from various continents that are currently on loan to the exhibition ‘Vibrant Metropolis / Idyllic Nature. Kirchner – the Berlin Years’. They include important exhibits from the Städel Museum (Frankfurt), the Pinakothek der Moderne (Munich), the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza (Madrid), the Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Modern Art (both New York), the Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles), the Art Gallery of New South Wales (Sydney) and the popular Kirchner Museum Davos. Private lenders are supplying works that, in some cases, have never before been shown in public. There is also a full-size reconstruction of the mansard niche of Kirchner’s second Berlin live-in studio – again, for the first time in Switzerland. The artist decorated it with textiles he designed himself, featuring Fehmarn motifs.

BERLIN AND FEHMARN: PLACES OF INSPIRATION

The exhibition is arranged chronologically, alternating between Berlin and Fehmarn – the two places of inspiration. They are often viewed as diametric opposites: on the one hand the frenetic lifestyle of a city that never rests, on the other the relaxing peace of a rural retreat; the hardship and alienation of the city dweller versus a harmonious existence in union with nature. Our exhibition, together with the accompanying catalogue, presents these two poles – metropolis and idyllic nature – as two conjoined aspects of Kirchner’s life and work. Both exemplify his longing for an existence removed from bourgeois norms and for a new and contemporary form of expression. In addition to exhibits from Kirchner’s time in Berlin, the presentation also includes a representative selection of his early paintings from Dresden and some of the first pieces produced in Switzerland. They provide the context without which it is impossible to comprehend the profound changes in Kirchner’s art between 1911 and 1917. The focused presentation investigates this pivotal phase in Kirchner’s

work, and with it the socio-political changes of the early 20th century. Kunsthaus curator Dr Sandra Gianfreda has designed the presentation together with Prof. Magdalena M. Moeller, director of the Brücke-Museum, Berlin.

READING, GUIDED TOURS AND PUBLICATION

'Mirko Bonné – Mein Fehmann', a reading in association with the Literaturhaus Zurich, takes place at 6.30 p.m. on 2 May. Admission CHF 20 / CHF 14 (concessions). Free for members and those with a ticket to the Kirchner exhibition. Members of the Museumsgesellschaft Zurich: CHF 12. Places limited. A limited number of tickets can be purchased in advance from the Kunsthaus cash desk.

Public guided tours in German: Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., and Sundays at 11 a.m. We will be happy to arrange private guided tours on request.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, with contributions by Günther Gercken, Sandra Gianfreda, Charles W. Haxthausen, Martina Pfister, Karin Schick and Uwe M. Schneede. Hirmer Verlag, 272 pages, approx. 220 illustrations in colour and black & white. Available from the Kunsthaus shop, price CHF 59.

The exhibition was conceived in cooperation with the Brücke-Museum, Berlin.

Supported by the Vontobel Foundation and with contributions from the Federal Office of Culture, Ars Rhenia, the foundation for the transregional promotion of art and culture, the A-Charity Foundation, the Truus and Gerrit van Riemsdijk Foundation and the Dr Georg and Josi Guggenheim Foundation.

ADMISSION, ADVANCE SALES, OPENING HOURS

Admission to the exhibition including audioguide in English, French or German: CHF 23 / CHF 18 (concessions and groups). Combined ticket including the collection: CHF 26 / CHF 19 (concessions and groups). Children and young people up to the age of 16 free of charge.

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.

Zurich Tourism: hotel room reservations and ticket sales, Tourist Service at Zurich Main Railway Station, tel. +41 44 215 40 215 40 00, information@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com.

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich, tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthaus.ch

Open: Fri-Sun/Tues 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Public holiday: 1 May: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Current information available on the exhibition website at www.kunsthaus.ch

NOTE TO MEDIA

This press release as well as images are available at www.kunsthhaus.ch >
Information > Press.

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