



Press Release / Pressemitteilung

Collection in Motion. 15 Rooms 15 Stories

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Krefeld

The collection of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld reflects the interplay of its exhibition program, museum concept, and the personal commitment of private citizens and artists. Over the course of its more than 120-year history, its rich and diverse holdings comprise over 20,000 works from all artistic areas dating back to the late Middle Ages. Starting on June 5, 2020, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld will present a selection of these extraordinary pieces in a new permanent exhibition entitled *Collection in Motion*. The exhibition features some 165 items and presents a panorama of artwork dating from around 1800 to the 1980s. The 15 rooms on the first floor of the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum tell 15 different stories about historical periods, special moments in artistic development, the origins of various works, unusual encounters and dialogical combinations, and works which have not been seen for many years. *Collection in Motion* is conceived as a permanent, but flexible exhibition which allows various rooms to be restaged at varying intervals.

“Many visitors have asked about our collection. There is strong interest,” says museum director Katia Baudin. “With this new concept, we can do justice to the diversity of the collection, highlight new themes and contexts, and not least of all, present the many treasures in our holdings.”

The new permanent exhibition format was inspired by the so-called “period rooms” which were installed at the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum around 1900. These rooms featured an assortment of items – from paintings to medieval armor – and allowed visitors to experience important periods of art history. Today the interest in art is no longer limited to major stylistic epochs or artist biographies, but rather on numerous individual aspects, different contexts, and the background stories of the works themselves. For example, similar to the historical period rooms, one section revives the atmosphere of the Biedermeier period in the first half of the 19th century with portraits, furniture, genre scenes and friendship cups. Another story refers to the so-called “Drove Cycle” of 1912/13 – the opus magnum of the Lower Rhenish expressionist Heinrich Nauen – which has not been shown in its entirety for many years. Another room highlights current issues of provenance research. A room containing significant works by such artists as Robert Morris and Richard Serra illustrates how everyday materials were turned into art in the 1960s. Further themes include the Natural Human Image, Danish Design around 1900, Pablo Picasso, Capitalistic Realism with Gerhard Richter, Yves Klein, Minimalism in Art and Design, and much more.

The exhibition was developed and staged by the curator and deputy director of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld Sylvia Martin in cooperation with Magdalena Holzhey and Thomas Janzen.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

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Artists (selection):

Arman, Thorvald Binesböll, Heinrich Campendonk, Max Ernst, Erich Heckel, Alexey Jawlensky, Wassily Kandinsky, Yves Klein, Sol LeWitt, Heinrich Nauen, Helmut Macke, Pablo Picasso, Gerhard Richter, Auguste Rodin, Richard Serra, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Moritz von Schwind, Carl Spitzweg, Thomas Struth, Jean Tinguely, Andy Warhol

Visit

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum
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Tue–Sun 11 am – 5 pm

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