



Press Release / Pressemitteilung

Maison Sonia. Sonia Delaunay and the Atelier Simultané

HLHE Dialogue *Living Abstraction*

Haus Lange, Krefeld | October 23, 2022 – February 26, 2023

Opening: Sunday, October 23, 2022, 11:30 am

Press Conference: Thursday, October 20, 2022, 11:00 am in Haus Lange Haus Esters, Krefeld

In 1923, nearly a century ago, the visionary painter and designer Sonia Delaunay (Odessa 1885–1979, Paris) received her first commission from a textile manufacturer in Lyon, which changed her artistic career in a remarkable way: From that point on, she designed patterned fabrics for fashion and interior design on a grand scale, which helped her to achieve international success—the Atelier Simultané was born. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, Sonia Delaunay and her husband Robert had been among the pioneers of abstract painting and made a name for themselves through the trademark-like use of the term *Simultané*, which referred to their characteristic style in painting with so-called simultaneous color contrasts. Sonia Delaunay succeeded in transferring the achievements of this pure color painting and abstraction to the surfaces of modern life, with fabrics playing a key role. In 2019, the collection of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld received a spectacular addition: A sizable group of almost 100 textile design drawings by the artist was acquired on the initiative of Katia Baudin, Director of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld. These works demonstrate the fusion of art and everyday life, of painting and applied art. “Sonia Delaunay exemplifies the relationship between the avant-gardes and the textile and fashion industries like no other artist of the twentieth century,” explains Katia Baudin, Director and co-curator of the show. “We are very pleased to be able to present our important collection of drawings in Krefeld in an innovative and multifaceted exhibition. In context with numerous loans that have never before been shown publicly, we can present a fascinating, previously unknown chapter from Sonia Delaunay’s history.”

The Delaunay drawings from the period of 1920 to 1950 in the collection of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, which form the heart of the exhibition, reveal the outstandingly broad range of Sonia Delaunay’s inventiveness, her experimental sense of color, and her open approach to cross-media design. “Supporting the first exhibition in the German-speaking world dedicated to Sonia Delaunay and her enormous inventiveness in the field of applied art is a gratifying endeavor. *Maison Sonia* reflects the successful commitment to communicating high-caliber art and making it accessible to a broad public in the spirit of our founder,” explains Martin Hoernes, Secretary General of the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

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The exhibition explores Sonia Delaunay's rich oeuvre of applied art, with particular attention to the origins and significance of the concept of *Simultané*, her workshop, her talents as a networker and businesswoman, her industrial collaborations, and her sheer endless media diversity from the 1910s to the 1970s. The artist's long life was accompanied by a profound interest in the role of art in everyday life. Exhibits from the fields of fashion, textiles, furniture, advertising, and book art, as well as film and photography, are set in scene within a site-specific exhibition architecture designed by Meyer Voggenreiter. A special focus lies, of course, on the museum's own holdings: In the period 2020–2022, the drawings and their provenance were researched by Waleria Dorogova as part of the Curatorial Fellowship of the NRW Art Museums, funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The results of this work form the basis of the exhibition and accompanying publication. The works were originally part of a collection acquired directly from Sonia Delaunay in the 1940s by the textile entrepreneur Robert Perrier (1898–1987), who was active in Paris and Lyon. In the 1930s, he had his apartment in Montmartre, a melting pot of the avant-garde and music scene, furnished with fabrics by Sonia Delaunay. The exhibition will also present, for the first time in public, important works from the Perrier family archive.

The fact that, with *Maison Sonia*, the Atelier Simultané is moving into Haus Lange, is of central importance to the program and DNA of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld: Sonia Delaunay's work symbolizes the link between free and applied art, which was a core concern at the time of the museum's founding, when Krefeld enjoyed the status of an internationally important center of the textile industry. Haus Lange, built by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe for Hermann Lange, chairman of the silk-weaving company Verseidag, is an icon of the International Style. Today, it recalls the relationship between modern art and the silk industry and is the ideal setting for the work of an artist whose collaborations with the textile industries in Paris and Lyon were among the most fruitful partnerships of her career.

Maison Sonia is part of the *HLHE Dialogue* exhibition series, which showcases the art of Sonia Delaunay and Andrea Zittel in the fall of 2022 under the Leitmotif *Living Abstraction*. With these two pioneering positions that transcend the boundaries between art and everyday life, the avant-garde of the early twentieth century meets the present.

Program *Living Abstraction*

A dynamic public program accompanies the exhibition. It addresses the transitions and boundaries between art and design through dialogue tours, workshops, lectures, school offerings, and cooperation projects. It focuses on social issues of our contemporary coexistence, as well as on historical aspects. The Ukraine as Sonia Delaunay's country of origin and the textile history of Krefeld both play an important role. Based on Andrea Zittel's experimental practice anchored in life, we cast new perspectives on materials, everyday objects, and our needs. There is also a broad educational program for schools, nursery schools, and daycare centers: kunstmuseenkrefeld.de/education.



Catalogue

The exhibition will be accompanied by the publication *Maison Sonia Delaunay*, published by Hatje Cantz Verlag in separate German and English editions. Contributions by internationally renowned scholars such as Pascal Rousseau (Sorbonne University, Paris), Marketa Uhlova (Central Saint-Martins, London), and Margarete Zimmermann (FU Berlin, former director of the Center for French Studies) shed light on hitherto unexplored aspects of Sonia Delaunay's oeuvre.

Artistic Direction *Living Abstraction*

Katia Baudin

Curators

Waleria Dorogova, Assistant Curator, Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Katia Baudin, Director, Kunstmuseen Krefeld

The Kunstmuseen Krefeld would like to thank all patrons and sponsors for their generous support.

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Cultural Partner



Visit

Haus Lange Haus Esters

Wilhelmshofallee 91-97

47800 Krefeld

Tue–Thur, Sun 11:00 am–5:00 pm

Fri–Sat 11.00 am–6:00 pm

For special opening hours on holidays,
see www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de.

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The Kunstmuseen are a cultural institution
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Kunstmuseen Krefeld

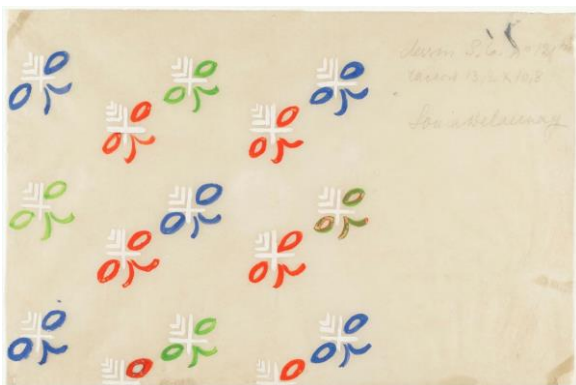
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Selection of press images



Marie-Jacques „Jacotte“ Perrier in her room with textiles by Sonia Delaunay, Paris 1930
©Perrier Family Archive



Sonia Delaunay, textile design S.G. 121 bis for Robert Perrier, created 1942 in Grasse
©Kunstmuseen Krefeld
©Pracusa S.A.

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KUNST



Sonia Delaunay, textile design no. 5009/296, 1950
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Sonia Delaunay, dress for Margrit Baumeister made from Tissu Simultané 34, 1926, private collection
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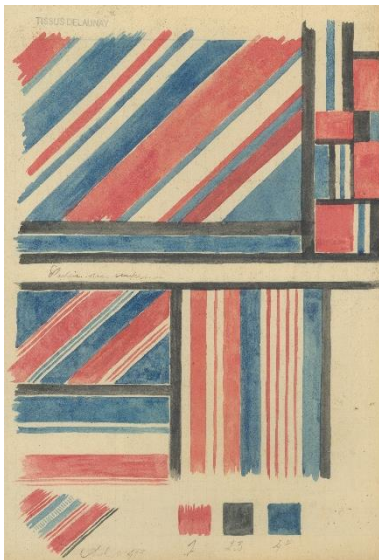
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Sonia Delaunay, handbag, ca. 1930
©Francesca Galloway, London
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Sonia Delaunay, textile design, 1929-1933, private collection, Switzerland
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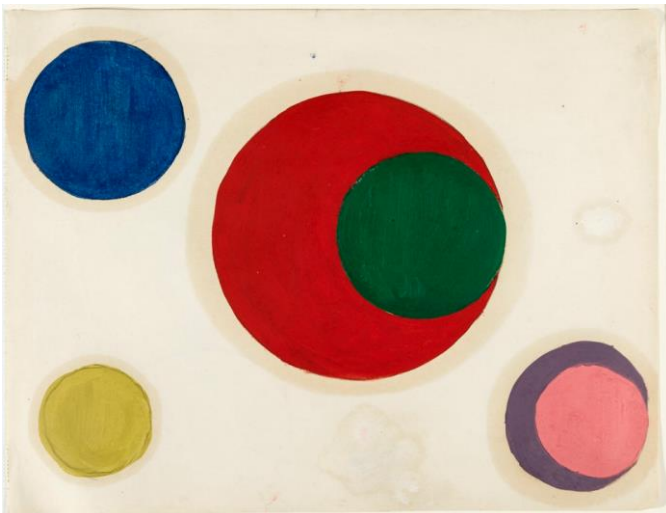
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Sonia Delaunay, textile design no. 857/250, 1928
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Sonia Delaunay, color study, undated
©Kunstmuseen Krefeld
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Photo Meurisse, fashion model wearing Sonia Delaunay beachwear in Trouville, 1928, private collection
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