

**Exhibition preview 2021 Kunstmuseum Bern**  
(programme may be subject to change)

30.10.20 – 21.03.2021

**Tools for Utopia. Selected Works from the Daros Latinamerica Collection**



Art in many Latin American countries from the 1950s to the 1970s radically departed from the representational tradition against the backdrop of brutal dictatorships and international and domestic conflicts. The ensuing works are understood as artistic alternative conceptions to the experience of totalitarian systems and as initiators in reshaping society. The exhibition traces the legacy of this period and presents insights into the manifold art of Latin America and the themes that still move the continent today. *Tools for Utopia. Selected Works from the Daros Latinamerica Collection* is showing some 200 exceptional pieces by artists from Chile, Costa Rica, Argentina, Cuba, Guatemala, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Uruguay.

30.04. – 05.09.2021

**Border Crossings – North and South Korean Art from the Sigg Collection**



Since 1953, a 250-kilometre border of barbed-wire fences and anti-tank barriers divides Korea into two states which could not be more different from one another. Equally divergent is the art produced simultaneously in the two countries. The North fosters a socialist-realist tradition of painting, while in the South a vital contemporary art scene reflects the diverse lived realities of the population. In the exhibition, the contrasting world-views engage in a dialogue with one another and invite the public to approach Korea's history as well as its present. Selected works from the Sigg Collection set visitors on a journey through North and South Korean art from the 1970s until today.

04.06. – 24.10.2021

**August Gaul. Modern animals**



The sculptor August Gaul is seen as a pioneer of the modern autonomous animal sculpture. His works show wild and domesticated animals as creatures of individual character pulsating with life. By removing all allegorical and narrative contexts, he made animals worthy of depiction in their own right, free from human interference. The exhibition juxtaposes Gaul's sculptures with testimonies from the science, politics and popular culture of his time, as well as artworks by his contemporaries. Gaul's animal sculptures are thereby historically contextualized for the very first time, while also being recast in the light of current debates about the relationship between humans and animals.

03.09. – 28.11.2021

**The Way to Happiness. The Bern Tablet of Cebes and Baroque Imagery**



Central to the exhibition is Bern's Tablet of Cebes by Joseph Plepp (1633). The composition and motifs of Joseph Plepp's multi-figured panel refer back to an ancient Greek text describing a votive tablet for a temple dedicated to Cronus, describing the path man must follow to lead a happy life. The setting for Joseph Plepp's painting as well as a selection of further artworks is organised by students at the Institute of Art History at the University of Bern in the context of a seminar devoted to the study, contextualisation and presentation of the Tablet of Cebes, and the ways in which to impart knowledge and information about it.

---

22.10.2021. – 30.01.2022

**Meret Oppenheim. My Exhibition**



Meret Oppenheim is the most important Swiss woman artist of the 20th century. She came to fame as the creator of the famous fur cup and saucer and the fountain in Bern.

*Meret Oppenheim. My exhibition* is the first major transatlantic retrospective devoted to the artist that covers all the phases of her work comprehensively. In the course of her long career Oppenheim produced a constantly surprising and unconventional body of work that includes object works, paintings and drawings as well as sculptures in the public space and poems. 'Freedom is not given to you,' she said in 1975, 'you have to take it.' The exhibition shows Oppenheim's radically open artistic concept and her connections with the lively art scenes in Paris, Basel and Bern in the various phases of her life.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Menil Collection in Houston. Bern is the first and only stop of the travelling exhibition in Europe.