

# Kunstmuseum Bern

Hodlerstrasse 8-12, 3000 Bern 7, Switzerland  
T +41 (0)31 328 09 44 F +41 (0)31 328 09 55  
[press@kunstmuseumbn.ch](mailto:press@kunstmuseumbn.ch), [www.kunstmuseumbn.ch](http://www.kunstmuseumbn.ch)

Press Release  
Media Culture  
Bern, March 4, 2009

---

Wilfrid Moser. Milestones – A Retrospective March 6 to June 14, 2009

## Swiss Artist of the Postwar Avant-Garde

Wilfrid Moser (1914 – 1997) has exerted a strong influence on the development of European painting since the 1930s. His work is marked by a turbulent expressivity and the existential themes of his times. The exhibition presents an overview of Moser's multifaceted work including paintings, assemblages, sculptures and works on paper which bear witness to Moser being a uniquely unconventional artist of the postwar period.

Directly after the Second World War, the artist, who was born and grew up in Zurich, settled in Paris, at that time the art metropolis of Europe. There he became one of the leading representatives of the postwar avant-garde.

### Intensity of Feeling and Expression

Moser's impressions of the great city of Paris became the basic motifs that run throughout his entire work: the street canyons, the open houses, the butcher shops and the metro are recurring motifs in his creative output. Moser combined these everyday subjects with his mythological interpretation of the world. He processed his intense impressions and sensations with a similarly intense expression: his work is marked by an impetuous expressivity. Always, Moser addressed the basic conflicts of the respective contemporary period. Thus, his art reflects the times of change as well as the sombre mood of his times.

### Between Realism and Abstraction

Moser can not be fitted into a fixed artistic groove. His work underwent various stylistic changes and breaks. Thus he was always alternating between realistic and abstract art. He did not restrict himself to painting. From the big-city Paris pictures, which have shreds of collage intermingled in them, he developed red-and-white striped synthetic resin sculptures as walk-in pictures which represent an innovation in the sculpture of the twentieth century. During the era of concept art in the 1970s, Moser also challenged painting with his grey-toned mountain landscapes, adding a new chapter to the mountain theme in Swiss art after Hodler and Kirchner. Again, in the 1980s, an expressive, gestural painting emerged from the impenetrable branches of the thicket pictures. His later large-format pastels combine all his themes and represent the culmination of his impressive work, an oeuvre in which the various epochs are combined through the underlying current of expressivity.

The exhibition is founded on the legacy of the artist, from his studios in Paris, Ronco and Zurich, brought together and academically processed by the **Wilfrid Moser Foundation**, founded in 2005. The exhibition includes hitherto unknown works and comprises 120 paintings, 20 assemblages and sculptures, the sketchbooks and works on paper.

---

Sender / Contact Media / Picture Material: Brigit Bucher, [brigit.bucher@kunstmuseumbn.ch](mailto:brigit.bucher@kunstmuseumbn.ch), T +41 (0)31 328 09 21

# Kunstmuseum Bern

Hodlerstrasse 8-12, 3000 Bern 7, Switzerland  
T +41 (0)31 328 09 44 F +41 (0)31 328 09 55  
[press@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:press@kunstmuseumbern.ch), [www.kunstmuseumbern.ch](http://www.kunstmuseumbern.ch)

Press Release  
Media Culture  
Bern, March 4, 2009

---

## The Exhibition

### Duration

6.3. – 14.6.2009

### Opening

Thursday, March 5, 18h30

### Entrance Fee

CHF 14.– / red. CHF 10.–

### Curators

Matthias Frehner, Tina Grütter, Simon Oberholzer (Assistenz)

## Katalog / Catalogue (German and English)



Wilfrid Moser – Wegzeichen (Werke 1934 – 1997)

Wilfrid Moser – Milestones (Works 1934 – 1997)

Herausgegeben von / Published by Matthias Frehner und Tina Grütter. Essays von / by Matthias Frehner, Tina Grütter, Jean-François Jaeger und Gabriel Moser. 336 Seiten / pages.

Deutsche Ausgabe: ISBN 978-3-85881-243-8, Englische Ausgabe: ISBN 978-3-85881-716-7

Museumsausgabe CHF 68.– Buchhandelsausgabe: CHF 99.– | € 69.–

## Special Events (in German)

### Öffentliche Führungen in Deutsch

Dienstag, 10. März, 24. März, 7. April, 21. April, 5. Mai, 19. Mai, 2. Juni, 19h

### Visite commentée publique en français

Mardi, 14 avril, 19h30

### Volkshochschulkurs

Mittwoch, 20. Mai, 27. Mai, 3. Juni 2009, 15h – 16h; [info@vhsbe.ch](mailto:info@vhsbe.ch), T 031 320 30 30

### «Moser dans le Métro» Vortrag von Guido Magnaguagno, Direktor Museum Tinguely

Dienstag, 24. März 2009, 20h

### Dr. Felix Baumann im Gespräch mit Dr. Matthias Frehner

Dienstag, 21. April 2009, 20h

### Lesung mit Paul Nizon

Donnerstag, 7. Mai 2009, 20h