

Kunstmuseum Bern

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Press Release

Media Culture

Bern, April 7 2008

Ferdinand Hodler – A Symbolist Vision April 9 to August 10, 2008

Hodler's oeuvre in an unparalleled overview

The Museum of Fine Arts Bern is showing one of the most important and comprehensive Hodler exhibitions comprising over 150 major works from all periods. The exhibition was arranged in collaboration with the Museum of Visual Arts Budapest and offers the viewer a unique overview of Hodler's oeuvre while clearly establishing the international significance of this Swiss painter. His large symbolist figure paintings are shown alternating with his best landscapes. The exhibition is rounded out with Hodler's group of works dealing with the dying and death of his mistress Valentine Godé-Darel and with a selection of self-portraits.

Hodler's symbolist vision of a harmonious unity between mankind and nature, the vision of an all-pervading cosmic unity, is at the heart of this exhibition. With his work, he wanted to show the idea behind the realistic appearance of things and to reveal their deeper reality. He consistently intensified the depiction of reality into the symbolist while searching for generally valid expressions of human existence and symbolically portraying emotions. In his paintings, the human figure is often to be seen as part of a greater whole under the open sky in an elemental state of being. With his very personal oeuvre, Hodler made an important contribution to the avant-garde of his time

Preoccupation with the fundamental themes of humanity

All his life, Hodler was occupied with basic human themes such as love, death, hope, belief. From his beginnings in Realism he searched for general natural laws and regulative structures. He transposed the principles of Parallelism in the composition of many of his works: the repetition of similar figures, reflections, a severely symmetrical construct or a systematic shifting are typical design elements in Hodler's works. The figure compositions, landscapes, portraits and self-portraits in the exhibition also give insight into Hodler's method of working and his artistic credo. Hodler's group of works dealing with the sick and dying Valentine Godé-Darel is unique in the history of art. These paintings complete the exhibition.

Outstanding and large format paintings

For the first time, different versions of the outstanding symbolistic figure compositions have been set in relation to one another thus making possible new insight into Hodler's complex development of motif. The exhibition was conceived by Matthias Frehner and Katharina Schmidt. From autumn 2008 it can also be seen in Budapest in a slightly different form. A well-known exhibition architect was commissioned for the presentation in Bern. Hodler's works can be viewed in the old building of the Museum of Fine Arts Bern in rooms designed solely for this exhibition. A varied accompanying programme (including a symposium) and a comprehensive catalogue will round out the exhibition. The catalogue contains important new research provided by specialists which will contribute greatly to a lasting repositioning of Hodler.

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Picture material:

Download: www.kunstmuseumbern.ch/presse/Pressebilder_Download.zip

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Main Sponsor:



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Opening

Tuesday, April 8, 18.00 Stadttheater Bern, 19.00 Kunstmuseum Bern

Duration

9.4. – 10.8.2008

Further Showing

Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest: 9.9. – 14.12.2008

Patronage committee

André Bugnon, Nationalratspräsident | Hans-Jürg Käser, Regierungsrat, Polizei- und Militärdirektor des Kantons Bern |

Franz von Graffenried, Burgergemeindepräsident Bern | Christoph Blocher, abgew. Bundesrat

Curators

Katharina Schmidt and Matthias Frehner with the support of Therese Bhattacharya-Stettler and Bernadette Walter

Entrance Fee

CHF 18.- / red. CHF 14.-

Audioguides in German / French / English, CHF 2.-

 The RailAway combo ticket with a 20% reduction on railway ticket and museum entry is available from 1 September 2007 at all train stations and Rail Service 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min.).

Katalog in Deutsch / Catalogue in English

Ferdinand Hodler. Hatje Cantz Verlag. Hrsg. von Katharina Schmidt in Zusammenarbeit mit László Baán und Matthias Frehner; Texte von Oskar Bätschmann, Gottfried Boehm, Werner Busch, Gabriele Christen, László Földény, Matthias Frehner, Sharon Latchow Hirsh, Christian Klemm, Paul Müller, Verena Senti-Schmidlin, Katharina Schmidt. 416 Seiten, ca. 400 Abb., 24,5 x 29 cm, gebunden mit Schutzumschlag. Deutsche Ausgabe ISBN 978-3-7757-2062-5. English Edition ISBN 978-3-7757-2063-2 (will be published in August 2008). Preis: CHF 68.-

Special Events

Öffentliche Führungen in Deutsch

Dienstag, 19h und Sonntag, 11h

Visites Guidée en français

Mardi, 3 juin et mardi, 5 août, 19h30

Guided Tours in English

Tuesdays, May 27 and June 17, 19h30

Internationales Symposium in der Aula im PROGR

Donnerstag, 17. und Freitag, 18. April 2008 (siehe Flyer)

Literarische Führungen mit Michaela Wendt

Sonntag, 20.April, 18.Mai, 1. Juni, 15.Juni, 29.Juni, 10.August, 11h

Workshops für Kinder am Sonntag (während öff. Führung)

Sonntag, 27. April; 4., 11., 18., 25. Mai; 1., 8., 15., 22., 29. Juni, 10h30 – 12h

Einführung für Lehrpersonen

Dienstag, 29. April, 18h und Mittwoch, 30. April, 14h

VHS-Kurs «Ferdinand Hodler – neu entdeckt»

Mittwoch, 14. Mai, 21. Mai, 28. Mai, 4. Juni, 15h – 16h

Anmeldung: Volkshochschule Bern, T 031 320 30 30

Buchpräsentation: Carl Albert Loosli. Werkausgabe in 7

Bd., Bd 7: Kunst und Kunstopitik. Hodlers Welt

Donnerstag, 22. Mai, 19h

VHS-Kurs «Ferdinand Hodler: Übervater, Vorbild, Schatten?»

Dienstag, 3. Juni, 10. Juni, 17. Juni, 17h30 – 19h

Anmeldung: Volkshochschule Bern, T 031 320 30 30

Vortrag von Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen: «Hodlers Nacht»

Donnerstag, 19. Juni 2008, 19h

Kurs für Erwachsene: Lust auf Kunst am Samstagnachmittag «Fast nichts als tanzende Weiber»

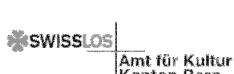
Samstag, 21. Juni 2008, 14h – 15h30

Filmprogramm im Kino Kunstmuseum

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