

Hermann Hesse's dual talents in painting and poetry

What is little known to date is that Hermann Hesse, one of the most widely read German-language authors, also produced an immense number of drawings and paintings. Together with the Hermann Hesse Museum in Montagnola, the Kunstmuseum Bern is presenting the first comprehensive retrospective of Hermann Hesse's artistic oeuvre to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of this famous author and artist. The paintings, drawings, and illustrations for texts in the exhibition have proven to be highly elucidating for understanding of his personal development, his notions of art, as well as his literary work.

Hesse did not see himself as an author or painter and instead considered himself an artist. His comprehensive notions of art kept the dividing line between the various arts fluid. As a poet Hesse was long seen to be a controversial figure despite the fact that he was given the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1947. Also as a painter Hesse had to wait a long time before art criticism no longer ignored him.

The formative influence of his years in Bern

Hermann Hesse settled in Bern in 1912, exactly 100 years ago. There he felt strong ties to the many locations where he sought inspiration and stimulation, places like "Ougspurgergut" in Schosshalde, "Lohn" in Kehrsatz, and Bremgarten. Hesse's years in Bern from 1912 to 1919 were not only decisive for his literary work. During this period in which he wrote his artist novel *Rosshalde*, he simultaneously began his little-known career as a painter that culminated in the 1920s and 1930s while living in Montagnola.

Between a harmonious existence and obsessive anxiety attacks

Painting played a pivotal role in Hesse's life and work. Hesse despised everything mediocre, normal, and average. He suffered between feeling drawn to both a middle-class existence and self-realization as an artist his lifelong. Hesse's painting embodies the state of a harmonious existence that was not only unattainable for the artist in reality but also for the characters in his writings. As a painter he saw beauty, and found it everywhere. His watercolors show views of spacious landscapes with lakes, villages, hills and valleys. And for the very first time, this exhibition will be presenting his series of dream images to the general public. It comprises a series of very personal and intimate representations. He was encouraged to execute them while undergoing psychoanalysis in an attempt to try and come to terms with his disturbing visions in dreams. In contrast to his idyllic landscape representations, these pictures are deeply marked by obsessive anxiety and rampant eroticism.

A comprehensive retrospective

Many of the some 150 works will be shown to a larger audience for the first time. One of the focal points of the show is Hesse's artistic activities in Bern. Additionally our visitors will be able to see many of Hesse's illustrated poems, letters, and manuscripts. The key focus in the exhibition is, however, on Hesse's visual language, which was inspired by Louis Moilliet, Cuno Amiet, and Albert Welti. This language is characterized by alienated subject matter; the use of invented, imaginary forms and unrealistic colors; a diversity of sometimes even very disparate styles; and repetition of compositional patterns. Starting with his very first attempts at painting, the exhibition allows us to see all the phases in the artist's creative development, his diverse subject matter, the genres he explored, and the styles of art he experimented with. His early studies are on show as well as large-format landscapes, paintings, detailed wash drawings, and illustrations for writings.

Supporting program and international conference

A diverse supporting program has been organized to accompany the exhibition with dramatic readings, concerts, an evening Lieder recital, and literary tours. For the celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of his decease, Düsseldorf University, together with Bern University and the Kunstmuseum Bern, are organizing an international conference with the title "... Crossing Borders." Many scholars from Switzerland and all over the world specializing on the famous author will be presenting their most recent research results, and for the first time pay tribute to Hermann Hesse's dual talents in poetry and painting. The conference will be taking place from March 27 to March 30, 2012, in the Kunstmuseum Bern. It is open to the public and free of charge.

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The Exhibition

Opening: Tuesday, March 27, 18h30
Duration: 28.03. - 12.08.2012
Curators: Matthias Frehner (Director Kunstmuseum Bern, Curator), Valentine von Fellenberg (Guestcurator Kunstmuseum Bern), Regina Bucher (Director Museum Hermann Hesse Montagnola, Co-Curator)
Admission: CHF 14.00/red. CHF 10.00

Further stations:



Fondazione Hermann Hesse
Montagnola

**Museo
Cantonale
d'Arte**

August 31 – October 21, 2012



Museum im
Kulturspeicher
Würzburg

November 13, 2012 – January 20, 2013

The Catalogue



«... die Grenzen überfliegen». Der Maler Hermann Hesse.

Hrsg. Kunstmuseum Bern, Matthias Frehner, Valentine von Fellenberg und Museum Hermann Hesse Montagnola, Regina Bucher. Mit Textbeiträgen von Regina Bucher, Thomas Feitknecht, Valentine von Fellenberg, Matthias Frehner, Volker Michels, Konrad Tobler und zahlreichen farbigen Abbildungen. Gestaltung: Marie Louise Suter, Kunstmuseum Bern. Deutsch. Kerber Verlag, Bielefeld. ISBN 978-3-86678-635-6

The Poster



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Hermann Hesse-Stiftung, Bern

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Kongress, 27. – 30. März 2012

Die Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (Prof. Dr. Henriette Herwig) veranstaltet in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Kunstmuseum Bern und der Universität Bern den internationalen Kongress «... die Grenzen überfliegen». Hermann Hesse zum 50. Todesjahr im Kunstmuseum Bern, 27. – 30. März 2012.

Der Schweizer Literatur-Nobelpreisträger Hermann Hesse lebte von 1912 bis 1919 in Bern und erwarb 1924 das Gemeindebürgerrecht der Stadt Bern. Als Referenz an seine Berner Jahre findet der Kongress aus Anlass des 50. Todesjahres in Bern statt. Zahlreiche Hesse-Spezialisten aus der Schweiz und dem Ausland würdigen Hermann Hesse erstmals in seiner Doppelbegabung als Dichter und Maler.

Referenten:

Helga Abret · Ingo Cornils · Osman Durrani · Thomas Feitknecht · Gunter E. Grimm · Kirsten von Hagen · Sabine Haupt · Henriette Herwig · Alexander Honold · Nikolas Immer · Wolfgang F. Kersten · Bernd Kortländer · Gustav Landgren · Michael Limberg · Tim Lörke · Matthias Löwe · Verena Meis · Volker Michels · York-Gothart Mix · Mauro Ponzi · Hans-Georg Pott · Rudolf Probst · Walter Schmidt-Hannisa · Günter Schnitzler · Sikander Singh · Wilko Steffens · Mara Stuhlfauth · Florian Trabert · Johannes Wassmer · Volker Wehdeking

Kongress: öffentlich, Eintritt frei (Kongress & Ausstellung CHF 14.00/red. CHF 10.00)
Dienstag, 27. März, 14h – 17h
Mittwoch und Donnerstag, 28. und 29. März, 9h – 18h30
Freitag, 30. März, 9h – 16h15

Detailliertes Kongressprogramm unter: www.kunstmuseumbern.ch

Abendveranstaltungen:

Mittwoch, 28. März, 20h – Buchhandlung Stauffacher, Neuengasse 25-37

Buch-Vernissage «Heimweh nach Freiheit». Resonanzen auf Hermann Hesse
Eintritt frei, Reservation: info@stauffacher.ch

Donnerstag, 29. März, 20h – Kunstmuseum Bern

Liederabend mit Hesse-Vertonungen

Claude Eichenberger (Mezzosopran), Felicitas Strack (Klavier), Einführung: Daniel Lienhard
Eintritt: CHF 35.00 / red. CHF 30.00

Reservierungen: info@kunstmuseumbern.ch

Mit Unterstützung der Hermann Hesse-Stiftung Bern

Freitag, 30. März, 20h – Kunstmuseum Bern

Schlusskonzert

u.a. Heinz Holliger: H·K·H Le-sung für 10 Sprechstimmen und Schlagzeug, Uraufführung

Katharina Weber (Klavier); zone expérimentale Basel, Leitung: Marcus Weiss

Eintritt: CHF 35.00 / red. CHF 30.00

Reservierungen: info@kunstmuseumbern.ch

Mit Unterstützung von Landis & Gyr, Migros-Kulturprozent, Pro Helvetia, Stadt und Kanton Bern

Agenda

Öffentliche Führungen: Sonntag, 11h: 1./15./29. April, 20. Mai, 17. Juni, 1./15. Juli, 5./12. August und Dienstag, 18h: 15./29. Mai, 12. Juni, 24. Juli

Einführung für Lehrpersonen: Dienstag, 1. Mai, 18h. Anmeldung: T 031 328 09 11, vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch

Kurs in Zusammenarbeit mit der Volkshochschule Bern: Mittwoch, 2./9./16./23. Mai, 15h.
Anmeldung: info@vhsbe.ch

Kunst und Religion im Dialog: Sonntag, 3. Juni, 15h30. Mehr Informationen: www.kunstmuseumbern.ch

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Rahmenprogramm

Dienstag, 10. April, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

«Eigensinn macht Spass» – Szenische Lesung mit Saxophon-Improvisation
Graziella Rossi, Helmut Vogel und Harry White (Saxophon)

Dienstag, 24. April, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

«Herzlich verbunden» – Hermann Hesse und Thomas Mann in Briefen – Szenische Lesung
Rudolf Guckelsberger, Benedikt Schregle

Dienstag, 8. Mai, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

«Zweisiedlerliebe» – Ninon und Hermann Hesse im Dialog – Szenische Lesung
Nina Hesse-Bernhard, Matthias Walter und Andi Peter (Live-Vertonung)

Samstag, 12. Mai/Samstag, 30. Juni – Besammlung 14h beim Parkplatz Zentrum Paul Klee
«Hermann Hesse in Bern» – Literarischer Spaziergang rund um seinen Wohnort im Melchenbühl (1912-1919)

Rudolf Cornelius, Bärbel Reetz, Ernst Süss
Anmeldung: ru-vi.cornelius@sunrise.ch

Dienstag, 22. Mai, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

«Liebes Herz» – Hesses Leidenschaft für Ruth Wenger – Szenische Lesung
Cornelia Bernoulli, Peter Holliger und Marcel Ege (Gitarre)

Dienstag, 29. Mai, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

Das AMAR-QUARTETT spielt Streichquartette von Fritz Brun und Joseph Haydn
Anna Brunner (Violine), Igor Keller (Violine), Hannes Bärtschi (Viola), Péter Somodari (Violoncello)

Dienstag, 5. Juni, 20h – Buchhandlung Stauffacher, Neuengasse 25-37

«Heimweh nach Freiheit» – Autorenstimmen zu Hesse-Texten
Peter Bichsel, Guy Krneta, Klaus Merz, Peter K. Wehrli
Eintritt: CHF 15.00, Reservation: info@stauffacher.ch

Dienstag, 19. Juni, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

«Im Tessin scheint die Sonne inniger» – Musikalische Lesung
Graziella Rossi, Helmut Vogel und Ambra Albek (Violine), Fiona Albek (Klavier)

Dienstag, 3. Juli, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

«Der Jahrhundertgeiger Fritz Kreisler im Spiegel seines Zeitgenossen Hermann Hesse» – Musikalische Lesung
Graziella Rossi, Helmut Vogel und Noëlle Grüber (Violine), Andrea Wiesli (Klavier)

Dienstag, 31. Juli, 19h – Kunstmuseum Bern

«Hermann Hesse und die Politik» – Szenische Lesung
Graziella Rossi, Helmut Vogel

Eintritt:

Alle Veranstaltungen im Kunstmuseum Bern CHF 30.00/red. CHF 25.00 (nur Abendkasse). Bei Abgabe des Rahmenprogrammtickets: Ausstellungseintritt CHF 7.00/red. CHF 5.00, Angebot gültig während Ausstellungsdauer

Reservationen: info@kunstmuseumbern.ch

Mit Unterstützung der Hermann Hesse-Stiftung Bern / Erben Fritz Brun / Jürg-George Bürki-Stiftung, Bern