

Of Dogs, Butterflies and Other Creatures

The Kunstmuseum Bern is mounting an exhibition of around 150 works by Ernst Kreidolf (Bern 1863–1956 Bern) to commemorate his 150th birthday. The show gives our visitors again the opportunity of admiring the fascinating oeuvre of this famous and popular illustrated-book artist. Original studies for the illustrated books *Sommervögel*, *Lenzgesind*, and *Hundefest* are among the exhibits that can be viewed at the Kunstmuseum Bern. Additionally the exhibition is presenting drawings and sketches from his early work that have never been shown to the general public before. The Kunstmuseum Bern organized the exhibition jointly with the Städtische Wessenberg Galerie in Constance and the Ernst Kreidolf Foundation and Association.

The show explores the role animals play in Ernst Kreidolf's illustrated universe. Besides plants, they are a key feature of his work.

A great understanding of the nature of animals

Kreidolf was strongly influenced by the life on his grandparents' farm in Tägerwilten, where he spent his youth and childhood. During the summer Kreidolf would help on the farm, while in winter he spent many hours drawing what he had been able to observe in his rural surroundings. Already at school he stood out on account of his great proficiency in drawing animals and plants. His point of departure was nature itself, and this was true for his later work too. Kreidolf's great talent lay not only in representing nature with astounding exactness; his pictures too demonstrate a profound understanding of the nature of animals. Kreidolf was interested in almost all animals. But his special loves were cats and dogs and, among the insects, grasshoppers and butterflies. He would often imbue animals with anthropomorphic traits, just as he was fond of doing with plants. And despite this, we can always precisely identify what species of animals or insects figure in a composition, while his knack for depicting their characteristic behavior is so convincing that they never strike us as artificial in the roles he has them play. This aspect of his art is especially impressive in the illustrated books *Sommervögel* (1908), *Lenzgesind* (1926), and *Hundefest* (1928), books for which Kreidolf also wrote the texts, basing them on drawings he had already executed.

Revolutionary illustrated books

Kreidolf's illustrated books are considered revolutionary for the times in which he lived. They focus less on moral issues, and the pictures are much more imaginative, colorful, and have less dark and somber tones than other illustrated books. Kreidolf was able to represent the magical and dreamlike in a matter-of-fact way. And he not only achieved this in his portrayals of nature; Kreidolf's illustrations are sometimes, too, excursions into the realms of the mythical and the visionary. In his eyes, the miniature world was as rich and meaningful as the wide world was to others. All these facets ultimately provided the foundations for the great success of his illustrated books, which today are still highly valued and constantly being reprinted.

Familiar scenes and rarities

The exhibition presents Kreidolf's popular creations together with seldom or never before publicly exhibited works that engage with the topic of animals. It comprises six sections. The artist's early work is the prime focus in the introductory section to his art, work that combines an artistic curiosity vying with that of a natural scientist and a great talent in realistic depiction and its conventions. The following sections are structured according to the creatures inhabiting his art: dogs, butterflies, grasshoppers and other insects, imaginary and mythical beings together with other animals. The presentation comprises largely works from the holdings of the Ernst Kreidolf Association, holdings that are kept at the Kunstmuseum Bern.

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KUNSTMUSEUM BERN

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The Exhibition

Duration: 21.06. – 29.09.2013

Opening: Thursday, June 20, 18:30

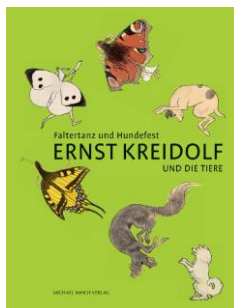
Co-Curators: Claudine Metzger (Kunstmuseum Bern), Barbara Stark (Director of the Städtische Wessenberg-Galerie, Constance)

Entrance fee: CHF 14.00 / red. CHF 10.00

Further venue of the exhibition: Städtische Wessenberg-Galerie Constance, 15.03. –11.05.2014

A joint exhibition project of the Kunstmuseum Bern, the Städtische Wessenberg Galerie, Constance, and the Ernst Kreidolf Society and Foundation

The Catalogue



Faltertanz und Hundefest. Ernst Kreidolf und die Tiere. Reich illustrierter Katalog mit Beiträgen von Matthias Frehner, Claudine Metzger, Sebastian Schmidler, Peter Schmid, Barbara Stark, Roland Stark und Sibylle Walther. 192 Seiten, zahlreiche Farbabbildungen. Deutsch. Imhof Verlag, Petersberg. ISBN 978-3-86568-893-4. Ca. CHF 25.00

The Poster



F4
89,5 x
128
cm
CHF
20.00

The Special Events (in German)

Öffentliche Führungen

Sonntag, 11h: 23. Juni, 14. Juli, 4. August,
1./29. September

Dienstag, 19h: 2./23. Juli, 13. August

Familiensonntag «Bild & Wild» – Begegnung mit Kreidolfs Tieren im Kunstmuseum Bern und im Tierpark.

Ein offenes Angebot für Kinder ab 6 Jahren
und Erwachsene.

Sonntag, 23. Juni, zwischen 10h und 14h,

Start beim Kunstmuseum Bern und

weiter zum Tierpark Dählhölzli

Kombiticket: Kinder CHF 5.00 /

Erwachsene CHF 14.00

(keine Reduktionen)

Info: T +41 31 328 09 11 oder

vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch

In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Tierpark
Dählhölzli Bern.



Einführung für Lehrpersonen

Mittwoch, 26. Juni, 14h

Anmeldung T 031 328 09 11

vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch

Kosten: CHF 10.00

«Auf den Spuren von Ernst Kreidolf»: Spaziergang durch Bern mit Elisabeth Büchner (Stiftung Ernst Kreidolf)

Samstag, 17. August 2013, 14h – 15h30

Samstag, 31. August 2013, 14h – 15h30

CHF 10.00, Mitglieder Verein Ernst Kreidolf
gratis, Treffpunkt: Kasse Kunstmuseum Bern

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