

## Award-winning Bernese art

The Bernische Kunstgesellschaft BKG (Bern Art Society) played a decisive role in the foundation of the Kunstmuseum Bern, which opened its doors to the public in 1879. Therefore, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the BKG, the Kunstmuseum Bern is devoting an exhibition to this illustrious art society. The show comprises works by the award winners of the Aeschlimann Corti Scholarship (AC), which the BKG has been bestowing on young Bern artists since 1942. Showing a selection from 104 artists, each is represented by a work that was executed at the time they received the scholarship. In this way the bicentennial exhibition ultimately offers a comprehensive overview of 70 years of artistic creation in the Canton of Bern.

The AC Scholarship makes an important contribution to promoting young talent. Many famous Bern artists today were distinguished in the past by being awarded an AC Scholarship.

### A concentration of art

In the exhibition we are showing works, among many others, by Franz Gertsch, Rolf Iseli, Frantiček Klossner, Bernhard Luginbühl, Chantal Michel, Peter Radelfinger, Markus Raetz, Ana Roldán, Julia Steiner and George Steinmann. You will be able to view an impressive variety of paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs and video art by the winners of the AC Scholarship. The works were all produced during the period the artists were receiving the sponsorship. They were—and still are—chosen by a jury of three, which is annually appointed anew. Famous people have been among the members of the jury such as Meret Oppenheim, Harald Szeemann, Bice Curiger, Ulrich Loock, Samuel Herzog, Andreas Fiedler or Roger Fayet.

### The history of the BKG: commitment to art

The exhibition title *Feu Sacré* alludes to the passion and commitment to art that is shared by both the artists and the BKG—one of the oldest art societies in Switzerland. It was founded on February 22 1813. Then, each member had to pay a membership admission fee and contribute a sheet to the so-called *Künstlerbuch* (Artists' book) on joining the art society. The artists among the members each donated a work of their own, the art enthusiasts each a work they had purchased. From 1818 to 1854 the BKG organized exhibitions. As the canton art society has taken on this responsibility since 1854, the BKG henceforth concentrated its efforts on other areas and began to purchase artworks. Among the first works it bought were paintings by Ferdinand Hodler, Cuno Amiet and Giovanni Giacometti. Ultimately the works it accrued made up the cornerstone for the collection and the foundation of the Kunstmuseum Bern. The BKG was likewise strongly involved in founding the Kunstschule in 1871 and the Kunsthalle Bern in 1918. Since 1942 it annually awards the AC Scholarship, which, in the meantime is among the most generous art grants in Switzerland with a sum of CHF 70,000.00. Today the BKG organizes, for its members, visits to studios, discussions with artists, and national and international art trips.

### The grand festivities for the bicentennial

With the opening of the exhibition on Thursday, September 19, we will also be celebrating the bicentennial of the BKG. The opening speeches will be taking place from 6:30 p.m. onwards with our speakers Christoph Schäublin, (President, Kunstmuseum Bern), Alexander Tschäppät (President of the Council of Bern), Holger Hoffmann, (President BKG) and Annick Haldemann (curator). Around 10:00 p.m. DESTILACIJA, an ensemble of Bern musicians around Mario Batkovic, will be giving a concert as a special highlight. Admission is free.

**Contact person:** Brigit Bucher, [brigit.bucher@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:brigit.bucher@kunstmuseumbern.ch), Tel.: +41 31 328 09 21

**Images:** Marie Louise Suter, [press@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:press@kunstmuseumbern.ch), Tel.: +41 31 328 09 53

KUNSTMUSEUM BERN  
MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS DE BERNE  
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BERNE

HODLERSTRASSE 8–12 CH-3000 BERN 7  
T +41 31 328 09 44 F +41 31 328 09 55  
INFO@KUNSTMUSEUMBERN.CH WWW.KUNSTMUSEUMBERN.CH

MEDIEN-SERVICE  
SERVICE DE PRESSE / PRESS OFFICE  
T +41 31 328 09 19/44  
PRESS@KUNSTMUSEUMBERN.CH

## Exhibition

**Duration:** Sept. 20 2013–Jan. 5 2014

**Opening:** Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m.: Speeches / 10:00 p.m.: Concert by **DESTILACIJA**

**Curator:** Annick Haldemann

**Admission:** CHF 14.00 / reduced CHF 10.00

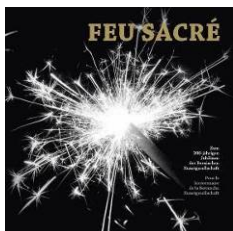
**The exhibition is being held under the patronage of:**

Bernhard Pulver, Member of the Cantonal Council of Bern, Director of Education

Alexander Tschäppät, President of the Council of Bern



## Exhibition catalog



### Feu sacré: Zum 200-jährigen Jubiläum der Bernischen Kunstgesellschaft BKG.

Eds. Kunstmuseum Bern, Matthias Frehner and Annick Haldemann. With essays by Kathleen Bühler, Matthias Frehner, Annick Haldemann, Alice Henkes, Daniel Spanke, Konrad Tobler, Fred Zaugg and Annelise Zwez. 216 pages, German and French. Jovis Verlag. ISBN: 978-3-86859-254-2. CHF 39.00

## Poster



F4  
89.5 x  
128 cm  
CHF 20.00

## Agenda

### Öffentliche Führungen

Sonntag, 11h: 22. September, 6./27.  
Oktober, 3./17. November, 22. Dezember,  
5. Januar und Dienstag, 19h: 24. September,  
5./26. November, 10. Dezember

### Öffentliche Führung mit Dolmetscher in Gebärdensprache

Sonntag, 27. Oktober, 11h

### Visites commentées publiques

Dimanche 27 octobre à 11h30  
Mardi 17 décembre à 19h30

### Einführung für Lehrpersonen

Dienstag, 24. September, 18h

### Exklusiv für BKG-Mitglieder:

### Künstlergespräch mit George Steinmann, Moderation Rachel Mader

Donnerstag, 24. Oktober, 18h: Führung /  
19h: George Steinmann im Gespräch

### Volkshochschulkurs: Berner Kunst von 1942 bis zur Gegenwart

Dienstag, 29. Oktober, 5. November, 18h30 – 20h  
Samstag, 16. November, 11h – 12h30

Der Kurs zur Ausstellung bietet einen vertieften  
Einblick in die Berner Kunst von 1942 bis heute  
sowie die Gelegenheit, die Förderpraxis der BKG  
und eigene Kriterien zur Beurteilung von Kunst zu  
diskutieren.

Anmeldung: Volkshochschule Bern, T 031 320 30  
30, [info@vhsbe.ch](mailto:info@vhsbe.ch), Kosten: CHF 90.00 für 3 Mal

### Performance-Stunde mit Kapelle Clairmont / Dieter Seibt, Beat Feller & Friends

Dienstag, 3. Dezember, 19h – 20h, anschliessend  
Apéro

## With the generous support of:

Alex Wassmer



Burgergemeinde  
Bern

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T +41 31 328 09 44 F +41 31 328 09 55  
INFO@KUNSTMUSEUMBERN.CH WWW.KUNSTMUSEUMBERN.CH

MEDIEN-SERVICE  
SERVICE DE PRESSE / PRESS OFFICE  
T +41 31 328 09 19/44  
PRESS@KUNSTMUSEUMBERN.CH