

Exhibitions 2020 at Zentrum Paul Klee
(Programme may be subject to change)

23.08.2019 – 24.05.2020

Beyond Laughter and Tears. Klee, Chaplin Sonderegger



In Paul Klee's work cheerfulness and tragedy, lightness and the plunge into the abyss often tip into one another. The exhibition sheds light on the exchange between Paul Klee and his friend Jacques Ernst Sonderegger, a Swiss artist et cartoonist. In the early phase of his work Klee received important artistic stimuli from Sonderegger. Their correspondence reveals a shared understanding of humour as a key to human beings, of satire as a commentary on the comedy and tragedy of human existence. The starting point for this exhibition is Paul Klee's little-known friendship with the Swiss caricaturist Jacques Ernst Sonderegger, who gave the young Klee important artistic direction. Klee and Sonderegger shared a sense of humour: the then-thriving genre of caricature embellished and satirized social and political life. By contrast, caricature offered Klee and Sonderegger a way to pose fundamental questions about human life. Framing the exhibition are scenes from Charlie Chaplin's films, which enter into fascinating dialogue with the work of Paul Klee.

20.09.2019 – 12.01.2020

bauhaus imaginista



In 2019 we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Bauhaus. Established in Weimar in 1919, moved to Dessau in 1925 and closed in Berlin in 1933 under pressure from the National Socialists, the Bauhaus only existed for 14 years. None the less, the legendary college of design continues to exert an influence in the present day. For the first time the history of the reception of the Bauhaus beyond Europe is investigated and a new vision of the Bauhaus conveyed.

bauhaus imaginista is a collaboration between the Bauhaus Kooperation Berlin Dessau Weimar, the Goethe-Institut and the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin.

07.02. – 10.05.2020

Lee Krasner. Living Colour



The Zentrum Paul Klee is showing the first retrospective in Switzerland of the American artist Lee Krasner. As one of the pioneers of Abstract Expressionism, Krasner made vivid, powerful paintings which distinguish her as one of the most consistent artists of the 20th century. The exhibition presents the varied career of an artist whose significance was too often in the shadow of her marriage to Jackson Pollock. Over a period of over 50 years Krasner repeatedly reinvented herself and questioned her own artistic activity, something reflected in the enormous energy of her work.

The exhibition is curated and organised by the Barbican Centre, London, in cooperation with the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, and the Guggenheim Bilbao. With generous support from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

21.05. – 04.10.2020

Mapping Klee



Life as a journey: the exhibition gives an overview of Paul Klee's work using the different stages of his life and travels. It shows places where Klee lived, worked or sought artistic inspiration. As if on a map the exhibition uses works, photographs, film clips and documents to trace Klee's journey from Bern via Munich, Weimar, Dessau and Düsseldorf and back to exile in Bern, also taking in his educational and convalescent trips to the Mediterranean, to the North Sea, to Tunisia or Egypt. In addition it includes specific excursions to Paris and Berlin, where Klee built up a network of art dealers, publishers and artist friends. One further chapter is devoted to the 'travels' of the artist's works after his death. Amongst other things, this part of the exhibition gives insight into Paul Klee's stunningly international exhibition history, introduces some of the most significant Klee collections, and tells the story of works that were lost or destroyed during the war.

From 21 April 2020, even before visiting the exhibition, you can also have thrilling insights into the theme of the exhibition: www.zpk.org/digital/mappingklee.

05.06. – 06.09.2020

Departure without Destination. Annemarie Schwarzenbach as photographer



For the first time, the Zentrum Paul Klee is devoting an exhibition to the relatively unknown and yet-unexplored photographic work of the Swiss author and journalist Annemarie Schwarzenbach. In a dialogue between Schwarzenbach's texts and her photographs, a view of the world opens up which makes the social and political upheavals and conflicts of the 1930s visible from a new perspective. On her long journeys through Europe, Asia, Africa and America she sought not only to encounter the alien as a way of escaping the haute-bourgeois conservative milieu of her origins. She also hoped to extract a meaning from her conflict-ridden times. Her travels represent an attempt to take part in the resistance against the threatening catastrophe of the Second World War.

18.09.2020 – 30.05.2021

Paul Klee. Rebel and Connoisseur



This exhibition contradicts the widespread image – also often applied to his work – of Paul Klee as an austere pedagogue, a school-masterly teacher and a meticulous bookkeeper of his oeuvre. Klee was a rebel and a connoisseur, although not the chauvinistic rake of the artistic cliché, as propagated by some of his fellow artists at the time. As a schoolboy, an art student and a soldier in the First World War, Klee resisted authoritarian behaviour with ironic detachment. He enjoyed life privately, he liked cooking, enjoyed a glass of red wine and smoked a pipe and cigars. He particularly enjoyed spending his holidays in the South, as the landscape, the warmth and Mediterranean cookery held a particular appeal for him. The exhibition shows surprising sides of the artist as well as hedonistic, free-spirit tendencies which tend to be viewed with a rather critical eye in the present day.

30.10.20 – 24.01.21

Tools for Utopia. Works from the Daros Latinamerica Collection



The Daros Latin-American Collection is one of the leading collections worldwide of twentieth-century Latin-American art. The exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Bern and the Zentrum Paul Klee has as its point of departure the tradition of abstract and concrete art in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil since 1945. While Europe was still struggling in the aftermath of the war, a spirit of cultural optimism prevailed in Latin America. Innovative artists developed a new abstract art as a means of raising social and political awareness and of contributing to a radical reorganisation of society. The exhibition portrays the legacy of this epoch and offers insight into the diversity of art produced in Latin America as well as topics that still affect the continent today.
