
Exhibition preview 2021 Zentrum Paul Klee
(programme may be subject to change)

EXTENDED until 25.04.2021

Mapping Klee



Paul Klee loved travelling. He was always in search of what struck him as exotic and strange. As if on a map, *Mapping Klee* marks out the artist's life and his journey from Bern via Munich, Weimar, Dessau and into his exile in Bern. The exhibition leads to the most formative travel destinations such as Tunisia and Egypt, and brings visitors to the places where Klee was inspired and where he worked. Aside from Klee's works, personal letters, postcards, photographs and diary entries are on show. The exhibition *Mapping Klee* is the first one to be complemented by an array of digital educational material: a Digitalia® and a podcast series allow art-lovers to immerse themselves in Paul Klee's universe even before they visit the museum.

EXTENDED until 09.05.2021

Departure Without Destination. Annemarie Schwarzenbach as Photographer



Author, journalist, photographer and traveller: Annemarie Schwarzenbach is one of the most colourful figures in Swiss modern cultural history. For the first time in Switzerland an exhibition is being dedicated exclusively to her photographic work, comprising around 4,000 pictures taken on her extensive trips through Europe, Asia, Africa and America. The dialogue that unfolds between Schwarzenbach's texts and photographs opens our eyes to the upheavals and conflicts of the 1930s. At the same time, Schwarzenbach's documentary viewpoint explores themes in a poetic and astonishingly contemporary way.

As of 2021 the exhibition will be shown in a modified form with new loans on display.

08.05. – 05.09.2021

Paul Klee. I Want to Know Nothing



Like many avant-garde artists in the early 20th century, Paul Klee tried to find new expressive forms in painting, and addressed the question of 'primal beginnings in art'. He hoped to find these through the study and collection of children's drawings, Art Brut and prehistoric and non-European art. For the first time, using works by the artist as well as private documents and objects, this exhibition will critically illuminate the many diverse sources that strengthened Klee in his artistic quest for supposedly 'unspoiled immediacy'. The exhibition will also shed critical light on the ideological underpinnings of modernity, particularly the notion of a "primal" form of art.

21.05. – 22.08.2021

Giant=Creation. The World of Adolf Wölfli



During his 35-year stay in Waldau sanatorium the Art Brut artist Adolf Wölfli produced a 25,000-page body of work that is nowadays exhibited worldwide. His most important creations include his writings, collected in 45 notebooks and illustrated with drawings. Those notebooks will for the first be shown in their entirety. The comprehensive presentation is complemented by a selection of his early pencil drawings, representatives of his so-called 'bread art', as well as documentary material from the everyday life at the institution and the artist's sparse communications. The exhibition reveals the conditions under which Wölfli's work was created and shows how he worked as an artist.

02.07. – 22.08.2021

Aljoscha Ségard



Over the last few decades Alexander Klee, Swiss painter, graphic artist, art collector and grandson of Paul Klee, has developed a varied body of work under the pseudonym Aljoscha Ségard. He has at least three artistic qualities in common with his grandfather, although in an aesthetic form of his own: a liking for the cryptic, a witty and poetic aspect and a delight in the interplay of image and word. The exhibition focuses on contemporary works, whose essence lies in a haiku-like narrative. Apart from his calligraphic-looking large-format charcoal drawings, these are poetic assemblages of objects in which the artist brings together small objects that have struck him and come his way in the course of his everyday life.

05.09.2021 – 22.05.2022

Paul Klee. Humans Among Themselves



Paul Klee is usually seen as an unpolitical artist. The exhibition contradicts this perception and demonstrates the extent to which there is often a political dimension concealed behind the ironic façade of his works. This political aspect is apparent in the broadest and most original sense of the 'political' – as a reflection on the organisation of human coexistence. What is the meaning of community and what forms does it take? What are authority and power based on? The title of the exhibition refers to Klee's idea that as an artist he is able to adopt a 'supernatural' perspective. With what could be called a 'zoological eye', Klee observes people and their activities with ironic detachment. Humanity becomes an unknown species yet to be understood.

24.09.2021 – 09.01.2022

max bill global



Max Bill – painter, sculptor, architect and Swiss design icon. He became known, amongst other things, as a co-founder and the rector of Ulm School of Design, which saw itself as a successor to the Bauhaus, closed in 1933. As a professed anti-fascist he supported the peace movement and environmentalism. His work is political too. In terms of Bauhaus ideas he wanted to make a contribution to a better society through his work. The exhibition is devoted to his diverse body of work: aside from paintings and sculptures, it also includes designs for posters, fonts and furniture. For the first time the exhibition addresses Bill's global network. As a major theorist and co-founder of Concrete Art he sought dialogue with artists from Europe, the USA and Latin America. These artists include Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Wassily Kandinsky, Georges Vantongerloo, Josef Albers, Tomas Maldonado, Maria Vieira and many others.