

Desire makes everything blossom ...

Van Gogh to Cézanne, Bonnard to Matisse.
The Hahnloser Collection

August 11, 2017 – March 11, 2018

From late in the summer of 2017 until the spring of 2018, the Kunstmuseum Bern will «blossom» with an exhibition of veritable masterpieces by leading artists from Van Gogh, Cézanne, Renoir, and Redon through Hodler, Giacometti, Vallotton, and Bonnard to Matisse, Marquet, and Maillol. As one of the hitherto most comprehensive exhibitions of the former Hahnloser Collection, it presents an overview that brings together the important paintings, sculptures, and works on paper of French modernism and the Swiss avant-garde.

Until Villa Flora in Winterthur opens its doors again to the public, the Kunstmuseum Bern has at its disposal over the next few years the top-notch artworks of the Hahnloser/Jaeggli Foundation as long-term loans. This is an exceptional stroke of luck and we owe this honor not least to the close ties between the Hahnloser/Jaeggli Foundation and the Kunstmuseum Bern.



Félix Vallotton

La Blanche et la Noire, 1913
Oil on canvas, 114 x 147 cm
Permanent loan, Hahnloser/Jaeggli Foundation,
Kunstmuseum Bern:

Photograph: Reto Pedrini, Zurich

«Vivre notre temps» and «Revolution Coffee»

The Hahnloser Collection goes back to the accomplishments of the pioneering collector couple Arthur and Hedy Hahnloser-Bühler. From 1907 to 1936, together they accrued one of the leading collections of modern art in the manor and garden that was their home, Villa Flora in Winterthur. The Hahnlosers lived by the credo of «vivre notre temps» and collected contemporary art while also being its outspoken advocates. This was not just a private passion on their part; they also avidly pursued the cause of modernist art in the public arena. Both of them fostered close friendships with artists such as Vallotton, Bonnard, or Matisse, and purchased their work, or acted as intermediaries between the artists and the collectors in their circle of friends or among their relatives. Arthur Hahnloser was an active member of the executive committee of the Kunstverein Winterthur, and Hedy Hahnloser-Bühler sent out invitations for weekly art discussions at Villa Flora over black coffee, which soon became known as «revolution coffee».

A large part of the former collection went to the Hahnloser/Jaeggli Foundation, which the descendants established in 1980. The foundation comprises some 300 works of art – with not only paintings and sculptures but also numerous watercolors as well as drawings and prints.

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The exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Bern

The recommended round of the exhibition follows a chronological and thematic order. The show portrays various trends in art with works from the Hahnloser Collection, private loans, and several pieces from the Kunstmuseum Bern. It covers the movements that spearheaded modernism from impressionism and post-impressionism through the Nabis group of artists to the so-called Fauves. Alongside the famous vanguards of Van Gogh, Cézanne, Toulouse-Lautrec, Monet, Manet, and Renoir, the show also focuses attention on bodies of work executed by the artist friends of the Hahnlosers like Bonnard, Vallotton, Redon, Matisse, Hodler, or Giovanni Giacometti. The overall selection of works highlights the international significance of the collection.

The exhibition also gives insights into the ways in which the Hahnloser Collection is linked to the Kunstmuseum Bern. For example, the son of the collector couple, Hans Robert Hahnloser, was not only a professor in ordinary of art history but likewise a member of the board of trustees of the Kunstmuseum Bern. By donating pieces of the family collection to the Kunstmuseum Bern, in the 1930s he was able to convince the members of the board to expand the Kunstmuseum's collecting activities to include also French art subsequent to impressionism.

The exhibition has been augmented with the further highlights of a film and an exhibition room dedicated to Villa Flora, where Arthur and Hedy Hahnloser-Bühler created a «Gesamtkunstwerk» (a synthesis of the arts) in which they combined life and art in a highly unique way.

Curator

Matthias Frehner, Director of Collections Kunstmuseum Bern – Zentrum Paul Klee

Opening of the exhibition: August 10, 2017, 6:30 p.m., at the Kunstmuseum Bern

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With the generous support of:

Kanton Bern – Canton de Berne
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Catalogue (in German)

Die Sehnsucht lässt alle Dinge blühen...

Van Gogh bis Cézanne, Bonnard bis Matisse Die Sammlung Hahnloser

Eds. Nina Zimmer, Matthias Frehner,
Kunstmuseum Bern

With essays by Matthias Frehner, Bettina
Hahnloser, Margrit Hahnloser-Ingold, Rudolf
Jäggli, Rudolf Koella, Marc Munter, Silvie Patry,
Ursula Perucchi-Petri

Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess, Zurich, 2017
255 pages, soft cover,
ISBN 978-3-85881-564-4,
Price: CHF 39.00

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Supporting program of the exhibition

SUPPORTING PROGRAM

Movie about the exhibition

«Villa Flora, ihre Sammler, ihre Künstler» *
(2015) by Nathalie David, in German.
Regular screenings at the exhibition.
Matinée screenings at Kino REX, Bern:
Sunday, August 13, 11:00 a.m.
Introduction by Marc Munter, assistant curator
of the exhibition
Sunday August 20, 11:00 a.m.

With a ticket from the Cinema REX to the movie
«Villa Flora, ihre Sammler, ihre Künstler», the
entry to the exhibition of the «Hahnloser
Collection» at Kunstmuseum Bern is free
(once).

Lecture by Dr. Rudolf Koella

Der Moderne verpflichtet – Die Sammlerin und
Kunstschritstellerin Hedy Hahnloser (Engaging
with modernism – the collector and author
Hedy Hahnloser)
Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Reading with Bettina Hahnloser

« La révolution autour d'un café »
Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Une coopération avec L'Alliance Française de
Berne

«Kunst und Religion im Dialog» (Art and religion in dialogue)

Sunday, September 3, 3:00 p.m.
Jan Straub (Christian Catholic Church of
Switzerland, Bern) in a discussion with
Magdalena Schindler
(Kunstmuseum Bern).

* Further information about the movie to the exhibition:

The movie is about the history of the collector couple Hedy and Arthur Hahnloser, with historical records, photographs and memories in conversations with the descendants.

Courtesy of: OUTSIDE THE BOX, Filmverleih, CH-Renens

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PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES

Family Sunday

Sunday, September 10, 10:00 a.m.

Night at the museum

Friday, November 10, 6:00 p.m.

Fäger-Ferienkurs

Fall holidays – Kunst berührt
Wednesday - Friday, October 11 – 13,
9:00 a.m.

«ARTUR» KINDER-KUNST-TOUR 2017 Saturday, 10:30 a.m.:

August 19, September 16, December 16

GUIDED TOURS

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.: August 13,
August 27*, September 3, September 10
*with assistant curator Marc Munter

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. August 15,
September 5, February 13**

** with curator Matthias Frehner

Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. December 26

INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHERS

Tuesday, August 22, 6:00 p.m. and

Wednesday, August 23, 2:00 p.m.

Chronology of the Hahnloser Collection

1870 / 1873

Arthur Hahnloser was born on April 13, 1870; Hedy Bühler on February 5, 1873, in Winterthur. She studied drawing and painting; he earned a PhD in 1896 as an ophthalmologist.

1898 / 1901

After their wedding they moved into Villa Flora in Winterthur. Birth of their two children Hans Robert (1899–1973) and Lisa (1901–1987).

1905

Villa Flora became a meeting place for progressive art enthusiasts. The driving forces were Arthur and Hedy Hahnloser, Hedy's cousin Richard Bühler, and the architect Robert Rittmeyer. Over cups of black coffee, soon known as «revolution coffee», the cornerstones were laid for replacing the conservative Kunstverein executive committee and for the construction of a new building for the Kunstmuseum Winterthur.

1907

At the same time, the Hahnlosers and Richard Bühler purchased their first paintings by Giovanni Giacometti and Ferdinand Hodler. Emil Hahnloser, Arthur's brother, and Hermann Bühler-Sulzer, Richard Bühler's brother, followed suit. Also Hedy's cousin Hans Schuler, later to be the patron of the Zürcher Kunsthaus, began accruing his collection.

1908 / 1909

First visit to Paris. Through Winterthur painter Carl Montag, the Hahnlosers became acquainted with Félix Vallotton as well as with Nabis artists and the Fauves. It was Vallotton who introduced the collector couple to Pierre Bonnard, Edouard Vuillard, Ker-Xavier Roussel, and Henri Manguin.

From 1910

Richard Bühler and Arthur Hahnloser ushered in the «golden decade» of the Kunstverein Winterthur. The Kunstmuseum, owing to its purchases and gifts to the museum, evolved into the leading venue for French modernism. Additional focal points are Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Aristide Maillol, Albert Marquet, and Odilon Redon.

1916

In the newly opened Kunstmuseum Winterthur, the most important and comprehensive exhibition of French art in Switzerland took place in the fall (*Ausstellung französischer Malerei*). Most of the loans came from the Winterthur collections.

1919 / 1920

Not only Georges Rouault and Henri Matisse but also Paul Cézanne and Vincent van Gogh were integrated into the Hahnloser Collection.

1936

The Kunstmuseum Bern purchased Bonnard's painting *Dans un jardin méridional* as well as further French modernist works on the initiative of its member of the board of trustees Hans R. Hahnloser. Arthur Hahnloser died. Hedy Hahnloser published her opus magnum *Félix Vallotton et ses amis*.

1940

A comprehensive exhibition of the Hahnloser Collection at the Kunstmuseum Luzern. Hedy Hahnloser and her children donated major artworks to the Kunstmuseum Winterthur and the Kunstmuseum Bern.

1952

Hedy Hahnloser died.

1980

Descendents of the Hahnlosers established the Hahnloser/Jaeggli Foundation in Winterthur.

1995–2014

Villa Flora was opened as a museum.

2015–2017

Tour of the Hahnloser Collection through France and Germany. Until Villa Flora reopens its doors to the public, the collection of the Hahnloser/Jaeggli Foundation has been deposited at the Kunstmuseum Bern.