

## Close Contact to Fellow Human Beings

**The Kunstmuseum Bern is putting on a large retrospective of Albert Anker's manifold oeuvre to commemorate the centenary of this key Swiss artist's death. The exhibition will take up several themes representative for Anker's work and demonstrate how exceptional he was as a painter. Video works by Chantal Michel, a performance and media artist who lives in Bern, enhance the presentation.**

A trigger for this exhibition was the immensely popular Anker show that was organized by the Kunstmuseum Bern in 2007–2008 for four Japanese Museums. The works on show comprise paintings, drawings, watercolors, and faiences. The exhibition is undoubtedly a highlight in the year of celebrations concerning the centenary of Anker's death.

### Photographic precision

Anker depicted the world with photographic precision. As a painter he witnessed the social changes of his times. Ins, a village in Seeland, was his hometown. It underwent extensive development in the 19th century. He actively participated in Ins community life throughout his life, even if he preferred, over a longer period of time, to live and work in Paris during the winter months. Very often he recorded unspectacular moments in the unencumbered intergenerational communal life in the village. Many of his paintings depict children attending school, on school excursions, or while doing their homework or at play. Anker was well-acquainted with the education system and for many years worked as secretary for the Ins school commission. As a result his paintings reflect the developments of the education system in Switzerland and communicate the new understanding of raising children, educating them, and learning through playing and games.

### People and Rural Life

Sharing his day-to-day life with the people he portrayed, Anker showed great empathy for his sitters. Especially his portraits of children are unique in 19<sup>th</sup>-century art. He comprehended children as little personalities and independent of the roles dictated by their social class, age, and gender. Also his still lifes evidence the proximity of human presence in a variety of ways, for example, by traces of usage on the represented objects. Anker's images definitely win our credibility and appear somehow familiar. Truth and beauty are not contradictory in his eyes. His close contact to his fellow human beings makes his intimate and light-bathed realism still moving for viewers today.

### A Contemporary Dream by Chantal Michel

Chantal Michel bridges the gap to contemporary times. The Bernese performance and media artist has taken up the challenge of finding an appropriate contemporary response to the old master of Swiss art history. Chantal Michel has long focused intensively on Anker. She comprehends the video installation she created especially for the Anker exhibition as a "contemporary dream within the world of Anker's imagery". The installation comprises six projections of forty different video sequences in total.

**Sent by/contact:** Brigit Bucher, [brigit.bucher@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:brigit.bucher@kunstmuseumbern.ch), T +41 31 328 09 21  
**Images:** Grégoire Bossy, [press@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:press@kunstmuseumbern.ch), T +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

## The Exhibition

**Opening:** Thursday, May 6, 2010, 18h30

**Curator Albert Anker:** Therese Bhattacharya-Stettler

**Exhibition Architecture: Albert Anker:** Ulrich Zickler

**Curator Chantal Michel:** Kathleen Bühler

**Entrance Fee:** CHF 16.-/12.-

### SBB RailAway-Kombi:



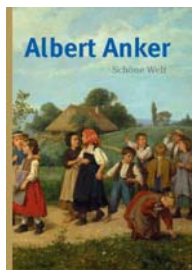
Benefit from 20% savings on train tickets, transfer and entrance fee. The RailAway-Offer is available at all train stations and at the Rail Service on 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min). More information:

[www.sbb.ch/ausstellungen](http://www.sbb.ch/ausstellungen)

**Opening Hours:** Monday closed / Tuesday 10h-21h / Wednesday - Sunday 10h-17h.  
From May 20, Thursday 10h – 21h.

**Holidays:** Ascension 13.5.2010, 10h – 17h; Pentecoste 23./24.5.2010, 10h-17h

## Publications



### **Catalogue (in German): Albert Anker – Schöne Welt.** Hrsg.

Kunstmuseum Bern, mit Textbeiträgen von Therese Bhattacharya-Stettler, Matthias Frehner, Isabelle Messerli. Zahlreiche Farbabbildungen, ca. 300 Seiten. Stämpfli Verlag, Bern. CHF 58.- / **Katalog und Heft:** CHF 80.-



**Magazine (in German):** Sonderdruck Berner Zeitschrift für Geschichte, Heft Nr. 2, 2010 „Ländliche Gesellschaft und materielle Kultur bei Albert Anker“. In Kooperation mit der Stiftung Albert Anker-Haus Ins und dem Kunstmuseum. Bern. CHF 28.- / **Katalog und Heft:** CHF 80.-



**Catalogue (in German): Chantal Michel – Honig, Milch und erste Veilchen. Eine Auseinandersetzung mit Albert Anker.** Mit Texten von Kathleen Bühler und Matthias Frehner. 100 Seiten, gebunden, zahlreiche farbige Abbildungen. Stämpfli Verlag. CHF 29.-

## Agenda

**Öffentliche Führungen:** Sonntag, 11h und Dienstag, 19h

**Kinderworkshop während der öffentlichen Führung:** „Inestächä, umeschlah“: Sonntag, 15. August und 5. September, 10h30 - 12h. CHF 10.-. Anmeldung: 031 328 09 11.

[vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch)

**Guided Tours in English:** Tuesday, June 22, 7:30pm, Tuesday, August 17, 7:30pm

**Kurs in Zusammenarbeit mit der Volkshochschule Bern: Das Irdische Paradies – Edward Burne-Jones und Albert Anker:** Mittwoch, 12., 19., 26. Mai und 2. Juni, 15h – 16h. Anmeldung: T 031 320 30 30, [info@vhsbe.ch](mailto:info@vhsbe.ch). CHF 80.-

**Kurs mit Praxisteil: Albert Anker alt bekannt – neu entdeckt!:** Samstag, 15. Mai, 10h30 - 12h30, Dienstag, 8. Juni, 18h - 20h, Samstag, 26. Juni, 10h30 - 12h30. CHF 30.- pro Kursteil exkl. Eintritt. Anmeldung: 031 328 09 11, [vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch)

**Einführungen für Lehrpersonen:** Dienstag, 18. Mai, 18h und Mittwoch, 19. Mai, 14h

**Im Kino Kunstmuseum: Premiere des Films MEIN ANKER von Renata Münzel:** Samstag, 19. Juni, 19h. 18h: Führung durch die Ausstellung, Apéro nach dem Film. CHF 20.-. Reservation: 031 328 09 99

**Matthias Brefin erzählt und liest aus den Briefen seines Urgrossvaters Albert Anker:** Dienstag, 22. Juni, 18h (öffentliche Führung 19h) und Donnerstag, 12. August, 19h (öffentliche Führung 18h). CHF 16.-/12.-

**Ausflug ins Anker-Haus nach Ins:** Führung im Kunstmuseum Bern, Carfahrt nach Ins, Führung und Apéro im Anker-Haus, Rückfahrt nach Bern: 17. Juli und 18. August 2010, 13h30-18h. CHF 60.-, Anmeldung erforderlich, beschränkte Teilnehmerzahl: [vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch), T 031 328 09 11

## Support of the Albert Anker exhibition:

  
**CREDIT SUISSE**  
Partner of the Kunstmuseum Bern



a. Bundesrat Christoph Blocher

## Support of the Chantal Michel exhibition:

  
KUNST  
MUSEUM  
BERN

VEREIN  
DER  
FREUNDE

**Die Mobiliar**  
Versicherungen & Vorsorge