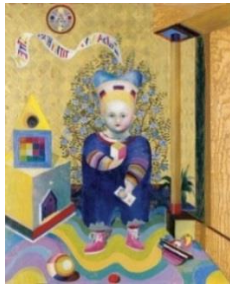


Exhibitions 2020 at the Kunstmuseum Bern

(Programme may be subject to change)

30.08.2019 – 02.02.2020

Johannes Itten: Art as Life. Bauhaus Utopias and Documents of Reality.



For the Bauhaus anniversary year, the Kunstmuseum Bern is devoting an exhibition to Johannes Itten, an important Swiss artist and Bauhaus teacher. The show spotlights his utopian project of conflating life and art in a holistic way. Itten's diaries and sketchbooks are key exhibits: They not only contain art-theoretical ideas for his colour theory, but also thoughts on the principles of art, studies of the old masters, references to what he read on contemporary esoteric concepts and science, as well as his investigations into aspects of the life-reform movement. Many sketches reveal a fascinating breadth of artistic expression, spanning abstraction, diagrammatic reduction, collage and figurative art.

13.09.2019 – 02.02.2020

Friendly Contributions: The Centenary of the Friends of Kunstmuseum Bern Society



The Friends of Kunstmuseum Bern Society (Verein der Freunde des Kunstmuseums Bern) is turning 100. One of its prime goals is to support the Kunstmuseum Bern in expanding the collection. For example, it contributed to the acquisition of Niklaus Manuel's Saint Anthony panels and purchased Paul Klee's *Ad Parnassum*. To date the society has purchased more than 300 works by 92 artists. The exhibition presents a varied selection of works with paintings by Cuno Amiet, Arnold Böcklin, Giovanni Giacometti, Caspar Wolf, Albrecht Kauw and Félix Vallotton, a pastel by Edvard Munch, sculptures by Germaine Richier and Markus Raetz, watercolours and drawings by Karl Walser, works on paper by Albrecht Schnyder as well as photographs by Balthasar Burkhard and reverse paintings on glass by Silvia Gertsch.

13.12.2019 – 20.09.2020

Things Fall Apart. Swiss Art from Böcklin to Vallotton



Sigmund Freud claimed in 1917 that mankind has been confronted with three narcissistic outrages, making man an option among many. The exhibition «Things Fall Apart» illustrates how Swiss art, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, attempted to visually understand this shift in man's importance: Human beings seem to dwindle to nothingness in the landscape's indifferent monumentality, and peaceful nature is pervaded by an aura of enigma, an inscrutable feeling of tension or even threat and despair; such landscapes often feature mirrors, hermaphrodites and wild animals. Images of sleeping, sick or drunk persons visualise how humans are absorbed by their dreams and ruled by their fears, instincts and multilayered desires.

31.01. – 10.05.2020

Teruko Yokoi. Tokyo–New York–Paris–Bern



This monographic exhibition traces the history of an enormously productive and dynamic woman artist, whose art evolved in the circles – and in the shadow – of artists who shaped decisive narratives of twentieth-century art history. The exhibition follows Yokoi from Tokyo to New York and via Paris to Bern, showing around fifty works from the period between her 1954 trip to the USA and the late 1960s. In this space of time, among other events, she settled in Bern in 1962 and the highly acclaimed exhibition of her work took place at the Kunsthalle Basel in 1964. The works of these years not only testify to the artist's undiminished creative energy, they also reflect – divided between East and West – the debates related to modern post-war painting.

13.03. – 21.06.2020

El Anatsui. Triumphant Scale



In collaboration with Haus der Kunst in Munich, the Kunstmuseum Bern is mounting a large-scale exhibition of the work of Ghanaian artist El Anatsui. He is arguably Africa's most renowned contemporary artist and famous for his large sculptures of recycled screw-tops that decorate whole walls like magnificent tapestries. These works, oscillating between textile art, sculpture and wall painting, upend traditional disciplinary categories. At the same time, the former metal sealing rings of liquor bottles reflect the (post-)colonial relationship between Europe, Africa and the New World. The exhibition focuses on the monumentality of El Anatsui's work and reveals how it developed out of his life-long passion for drawing, his wooden sculptures carved with chainsaws, and the ceramics he produced in the early years of his artistic career.

13.06.2020 – 24.01.2021

'Ich, das Bild, ich höre Dir zu' (I, the Image, am listening to You): Works from the Contemporary Art Collection in Dialogue with the Private Collection of Marlies Kornfeld



The dynamics of collecting privately are different to collecting for an institution. Private collectors, for example, can purchase works primarily for contemplating themselves, as Rémy Zaugg's piece 'Ich, das Bild, ich höre Dir zu' (I, the Image, am listening to You) implies. Works collected privately are for personal one-to-one encounters and personal aesthetic preferences and study. In contrast, institutional collecting expands an existing public collection and seeks not only to reflect the times we live in but also our society and culture. And nevertheless we find, again and again, overlap in the artistic approaches and works that satisfy the demands of both. The collection of contemporary art at the Kunstmuseum Bern is inviting Marlies Kornfeld's private collection to partake in a dialogue, in which outstanding pieces from both collections meet in harmony.

04.09.2020 – 10.01.2021

Growing – Blossoming – Wilting: Ernst Kreidolf and Plants



Ernst Kreidolf (1863–1956) remains unforgotten as a painter and book illustrator. He has set new standards for illustrated books since he began publishing in 1898. His illustrations carry us off to the world of fairytales and dreams, where plants play a leading role. One cannot but wonder at his ability in both identifying the key characteristics of plants and giving them human form. The exhibition presents Kreidolf's studies, which bear the stamp of his scientific curiosity, as well as the intriguing original illustrations for his books, which are fascinating for young and old alike.

The exhibition will be realised in cooperation with the Ernst Kreidolf Association and Foundation as well as Städtische Wessenberg-Galerie in Constance.

25.09.2020 – 28.03.2021

The Way to Happiness. The Bern Tablet of Cebes and Baroque Imagery



Central to the exhibition is Bern's Tablet of Cebes by Joseph Plepp (1633), a monumental painting from the Kunstmuseum Bern's holdings. The composition and motifs of Joseph Plepp's multi-figured panel refer back to an ancient Greek text describing a votive tablet for a temple dedicated to Cronus, describing the path man must follow to lead a happy life. The path is lined with personifications of the difficulties, delusions and misleading temptations man must face on his way as well as those of wisdom and virtue. The setting for Joseph Plepp's painting as well as a selection of further artworks is organised by students at the Institute of Art History at the University of Bern in the context of a seminar devoted to the study, contextualisation and presentation of the Tablet of Cebes – and the ways in which to impart knowledge and information about it.

In collaboration with the University of Bern, Institute for Art History.

30/10/2020 – 14/02/2021

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.