

## Modernist Classics and Contemporary Art face-to-face

**At the beginning of the 20th century, Hermann and Margrit Rupf laid the foundations for a collection that is now regarded as one of the leading of its kind for European modern art. Due to the fact that a foundation was established in the 1950s in the Kunstmuseum Bern, the collection is open to the public and is being, up to the present and beyond, constantly enlarged. The exhibition presents modernist artworks in dialogue with contemporary art. Thus Pablo Picasso is confronted by Meret Oppenheim, Fernand Léger meets Donald Judd, and Paul Klee finds himself face-to-face with Ilya Kabakov.**

The exhibition is showing a representative selection of the Rupf Foundation accessions. The modernist artworks chosen for the exhibition are being shown in the immediate vicinity of contemporary art, encouraging a dialogue between the different epochs.

### **A world-class collection**

As the joint proprietor of the haberdashery store Hossmann & Rupf at Waisenhausplatz in Bern retailing sewing tools, socks and stockings, as well as gloves, Hermann Rupf (1880 – 1962) became interested in art early on in life. While learning the banking trade in Frankfurt around the turn of the century he made the acquaintance of Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler. The latter was to shortly become one of the leading art dealers in Paris. Rupf regularly paid the friend of his youth a visit when purchasing haberdashery wares in the French metropolis. He was among Kahnweiler's very first clients and they remained close and lifelong friends. Besides collecting, Hermann and Margrit Rupf were highly supportive of artists, often also giving them advice. Hermann Rupf was likewise an art critic and very committed to establishing acceptance and popularity of contemporary art. Hermann and Margrit Rupf's collection is world class: As the first private Swiss collectors intensely interested in abstract art, the couple collected works only shortly after their completion (from 1907 onwards). The collection holdings boast, among many others, groups of works by the fauves (Othon Friesz and André Derain), the cubists (Georges Braque, Pablo Picasso, Juan Gris, and Fernand Léger) as well as works by Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, and André Masson. Not only a multitude of masterpieces makes this collection remarkable, but also the fact that Hermann Rupf acquired the majority of them in the same year they were executed.

### **An overview of over 100 years of art history due to new accessions**

In 1954 Hermann and Margrit Rupf not only entrusted their collection with approximately 300 works to the Kunstmuseum Bern, but also provided an endowment for further pursuing the goals of the Foundation – that is, “preserving, adding to, and enlarging the donated art collection.” Today the Rupf Foundation collection holds over 1100 works. The Foundation focuses – just as the collector couple had previously done – especially on purchasing contemporary art. However, in contrast to the small formats typical for the Rupf's private collection, the Foundation additionally collects large-format artworks and installations. It has purchased works of concrete or minimal art, from Group Zero or artists such as Markus Raetz, Vaclav Pozarek, and Meret Oppenheim. The Foundation holdings are therefore able to offer an overview of over one hundred years of art history.

### **“Rectangle and Square”: geometric, constructive, and conceptual artworks**

Alfred Jensen's large-format painting *Rectangle and Square* (1968), from hence the exhibition has its name, points out a guiding principle behind the collection: In continuation of its emphasis on cubism, figurative works are scarce among the Foundation's acquisitions, which mainly purchases geometrical, constructive, and conceptual artworks.

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## The Exhibition

**Opening:** Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 18h30

**Duration:** 14.09.2011 - 08.01.2012

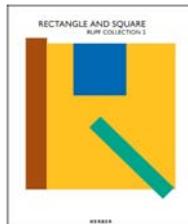
**Curators:** Susanne Friedli

**Entrance Fee:** CHF 18.- / red. 14.-



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## The Catalogue (in German / English)



### «Rectangle and Square». Rupp Collection II

Herausgegeben von der Hermann und Margrit Rupp-Stiftung und dem Kunstmuseum Bern. Kerber Verlag.  
Mit Textbeiträgen von Matthias Frehner, Susanne Friedli, Franz Krähenbühl, Roman Kurzmeyer,

Gerhard Mack, Konrad Tobler und Carola Schneider. 192 Seiten. Deutsch/Englisch. ISBN 978-3-86678-581-6, CHF 45.00

## The Poster



F4  
(89,5 x 128  
cm)  
CHF 20.-

## The Special Events (in German)

**Öffentliche Führungen:** Sonntag, 11h: 18. September, 2./9./30. Oktober, 20./27. November, 18. Dezember 2011 und 8. Januar 2012 und Dienstag, 19h: 18. Oktober, 8. November, 13./20. Dezember 2011

**Die Credit Suisse, Partner des Kunstmuseum Bern, lädt ein zum Podiumsgespräch:**  
**«Tendenzen in der Stiftungslandschaft: Wo steht die Schweiz?»:** Mittwoch, 19. Oktober 2011, 20h - ca. 21h. Anschliessend Apéro, Eintritt frei

**Einführung für Lehrpersonen: «Rectangle and Square» und Kurt Schwitters:** Dienstag, 25. Oktober, 18h und Mittwoch, 26. Oktober, 14h. Anmeldung: T 031 328 09 11, [vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch). Kosten: CHF 10.00

**«Zeitfenster Gegenwart»: Vaclav Pozarek im Gespräch:** Dienstag, 29. November 2011  
Ohne Anmeldung, Ausstellungseintritt

**«Von Anfang an dabei»: Ein Gespräch mit Renée und Maurice Ziegler, Mitglieder der Hermann und Margrit Rupp-Stiftung:** Dienstag, 20. Dezember, 20h. Um 19h findet eine öffentliche Führung statt. Ohne Anmeldung, Ausstellungseintritt

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