

Dialogue between Two Masters of Color

The exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Bern palpably illustrates Johannes Itten's and Paul Klee's study of color with key works by both artists. They were two pivotal figures in the area of color theory and comprehensively integrated their reflections on color in their artistic work. The exhibition is the first show to present Johannes Itten and Paul Klee as two artists mutually pursuing an ideal.

Actually one would think that it is only logical to show Johannes Itten and Paul Klee in dialogue with one another. After all, their lives and work intersected at many points. For example, Paul Klee's father was the first to inspire Johannes Itten to become an artist. And conversely, Paul Klee ultimately had Johannes Itten's support to thank for his appointment to work at the Bauhaus in Weimar. Both artists began their lifelong investigation and study of color theory as well as of the structures inherent in the cosmos of color well-nigh simultaneously around 1914/1915. At the time Klee was visiting Tunisia and Itten was staying in Stuttgart where he came under the influence of Adolf Hölzel's color theory. Over many years, Itten and Klee took a mutual interest in each other's art and even exchanged works.

First exhibition together

In face of all this, it is all the more surprising that Johannes Itten and Paul Klee have hitherto not been featured together in a monographic exhibition that focuses on their mutual artistic pursuits. The exhibition taking place in the Kunstmuseum Bern can now finally show that not only Klee inspired Itten, but also that Itten influenced Klee, and that both artists drew on the same sources. Additionally they both firmly believed that the order of colors presents a self-contained cosmos and obeys set principles.

Multifaceted aspects of color

The exhibition underscores the importance of color and its multifaceted nature for the artistic oeuvres and art theories of Johannes Itten and Paul Klee. It addresses the subject of color and esoteric, color harmony, color and abstraction, color and nature. The exhibits have been chronologically ordered together in eleven sections. The choreography of the show takes up Klee's idea of gray building the center of the color cosmos by mounting the artworks on gray walls. Additionally, the background colors of the room numbers have been taken from Itten's color disc, which our visitors pass through during their visit, as it were.

Key works from various collections

The Kunstmuseum Bern is home to the Johannes Itten Foundation and therefore has numerous key works by Johannes Itten at its disposal. Paul Klee is well-represented in the collection too. For example, the Kunstmuseum owns works such as the painting *Ad Parnassum*, which we can justifiably assert to be Klee's artistic legacy in paint on color theory. Additionally we were able to obtain loans from prestigious museums and private collections such as the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the Albertina in Vienna, and the Fondation Beyeler in Basle. The fact that the show will also be shown in the Martin Gropius Building in Berlin evidences the great interest in this fascinating exhibition topic.

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The Exhibition

Duration: Nov. 30 2012 – April 1 2013

Opening: Thursday, November 29, 6:30 p.m.

Curators: Christoph Wagner (Regensburg University), Monika Schäfer (Kunstmuseum Bern)

Admission fee: CHF 18.00 / red. CHF 14.00; 50% reduction upon presentation of the voucher for the exhibitions *Master Klee!* (until 06.01.2013) and *The Angels of Klee* (until 20.01.2013)

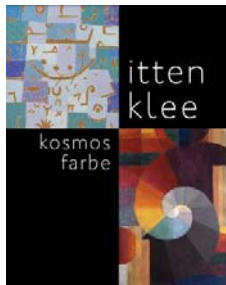
SBB RailAway-Kombi: 10% reduced prices for train ride and admission. Available at train stations or the Rail Service 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min. on the Swiss landline network)

In Collaboration with:



where the exhibition will be showing from April 25 to July 29 2013.

The Exhibition catalogue



Itten – Klee. Kosmos Farbe, hrsg. von Christoph Wagner, Monika Schäfer, Matthias Frehner und Gereon Sievernich für das Kunstmuseum Bern und den Martin-Gropius-Bau Berlin. Mit Textbeiträgen u.a. von Michael Baumgartner, Lorenz Dittmann, Oliver Jehle, Robin Rehm, Ulrich Röthke, Georg Stahl und Christoph Wagner. Deutsch, ca. 384 Seiten, ca. 300 Abbildungen. Schnell & Steiner. ISBN 978-3-7954-2646-0. CHF 39.00

The Poster



F4
89,5 x
128 cm
CHF 20.00

Accompanying program

Wissenschaftliches Symposium in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Zentrum Paul Klee:
«Die Entdeckung der Farbe: Johannes Itten, Paul Klee und Otto Nebel» Freitag, 30. November, 10h -18h im Kunstmuseum Bern. Eintritt: ganzer Tag CHF 50.00 / halber Tag CHF 30.00 / Studierende gratis. Anmeldung nicht erforderlich. Bei Abgabe des Eintrittstickets: Gratisseintritt in die Ausstellungen *Itten-Klee*, *Otto Nebel* und *Meister Klee!* (Zentrum Paul Klee), Angebot gültig während der Ausstellungsdauer. Mit Unterstützung der Bürgi-Willert-Stiftung und der Fondation Johanna Dürmüller-Bol

Öffentliche Führungen
Sonntag 11h: 2./9./16./23./30. Dezember, 6./13./20./27. Januar, 3./10./24. Februar, 3./10./17./24./31. März
Dienstag, 11h: 1. Januar
Dienstag, 19h: 4. Dezember, 22. Januar, 19./26. Februar, 5./12./26. März

Public Guided Tours in English

Tuesday, 19h30, January 22
Sunday, 11h30, March 17

Visite commentée publique en français

Mardi, 19h30, 11 décembre
Dimanche, 11h30, 10 février

Einführung für Lehrpersonen

Dienstag, 4. Dezember, 18h
Mittwoch, 5. Dezember, 14h

Ein farbiger Sonntag im Museum für die ganze Familie

Sonntag, 20. Januar, 17. Februar, 17. März
jeweils 11h00 - 12h30

Kino Kunstmuseum

«Die Tunisreise» (Schweiz 2007, 76 min. OV/DF, Farbe, Regie: Bruno Moll): Dienstag, 18. Dezember, 18h30 und Sonntag, 30. Dezember, 14h. Weitere Filme zur Ausstellung im Februar und März, www.kinokunstmuseum.ch

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