

Focusing on Swiss Contemporary Art

From 1982 through 2013, the Kunst Heute Foundation accrued a high-caliber collection of Swiss contemporary art. In 2003, the entire collection was handed over to the Kunstmuseum Bern as a gift, including further acquisitions made by the foundation until it discontinued its activities in 2013. With a selection of some 30 artworks, by artists such as Thomas Hirschhorn, Pipilotti Rist, Fischli/Weiss, Roman Signer and Christian Marclay, we are mounting a representative overview of Swiss contemporary art from the early 1980s through to the present, while paying tribute to the Kunst Heute Foundation's pioneering role.

It took quite while before contemporary art met with the same acceptance "classical" modern art enjoyed. Exhibitions showing contemporary art were a rarity still in the 1980s, especially those focusing on Swiss art. With over thirty years of dedication to its cause, the Kunst Heute Foundation decisively influenced how the international art-world—and Switzerland itself—view Swiss contemporary art, and in the process strongly impacted sponsorship and collecting.

A Collection that Pioneered the Way for the Future

Bernese art historian Marianne Gerny-Schild and patron of the arts and collector Donald M. Hess established the Kunst Heute Foundation in 1982 in order to foster interest in contemporary art among the wider public and to preserve contemporary art approaches for future generations. With its seat in Bern and over the period in which it was active, the foundation dedicated itself to building up a collection of "the most recent art trends" in Switzerland, doggedly pursuing the foundation's objectives. It guaranteed proximity to the contemporary art scene through purchasing commissions that were made up of young art agents and artists, appointing them anew on a regular basis. The only stipulation they had to adhere to was that they buy works by artists of their respective generations and with regard to the museum-suitability of the artworks. This proved to be an especially felicitous strategy. By being anchored in the different art scenes over the years, the members of the commission were able to accrue key works of in-the-meantime international stars, such as Pipilotti Rist, Thomas Hirschhorn or John Armleder.

Entwinement Between the Human Being and the World

The exhibition is mounting a themed presentation of installations, paintings, art videos and collages from the collection of the Kunst Heute Foundation. As the title of the show reveals, we always encounter every single work of art in the here and now, and therefore we must inevitably ask in what way is it relevant to us today. For the exhibition, we selected works that explore the distinguishing characteristics of the globalized world comprising our reality at present, probing how we, as individuals, are inevitably interlinked with the world. The first section consists of artworks that offer views of how their makers see the world. The second section engages with people as subject and construction of identity. A third section explores our environments and how they are impacted by structures we create, which in turn influence our behavior. Finally, the works in the fourth section investigate how historiography functions and what today's culture finds worth passing on to posterity.

Our Exhibition Series of Contemporary Art from the Collection

After *Don't Look Now* (2010) and *Meret's Sparks* (2012), this exhibition is the third of a series of themed presentations of the collection from our Department of Contemporary Art at the Kunstmuseum Bern, which we are mounting on a regular basis. It is accompanied by an extensive catalogue, published by Kerber Verlag.

Contact person: Brigit Bucher, brigit.bucher@kunstmuseumbern.ch, Tel.: +41 31 328 09 21

Images: Marie Louise Suter, press@kunstmuseumbern.ch, Tel.: +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

With works by: Judith Albert, Ian Anüll, John M Armleder, Katia Bassanini, Miriam Cahn, Maurício Dias & Walter Riedweg, Christoph Draeger, Yan Duyvendak, Pierre André Ferrand, Fischli/Weiss, Florian Germann, Alex Hanimann, Thomas Hirschhorn, Christian Marclay, Luc Mattenberger, Claudio Moser, Marco Poloni, David Renggli, Pipilotti Rist, Roman Signer, Loredana Sperini, Studer/van den Berg, Matteo Terzaghi & Marco Zürcher, Bernard Voïta

Duration of the exhibition: Oct. 24, 2014 – April 26, 2015

Opening (jointly with the opening of the exhibition *Bethan Huws: Reading Duchamp, Research Notes 2007– 2014*): Thursday, October 22, 2014, 6:30 p.m. Public addresses and exhibition opening at the Kunstmuseum Bern, followed by a party with catering, a bar, and music in the PROGR Aula

Curator: Sarah Merten

Admission fee: CHF 18.00 / reduced CHF 14.00

Catalogue



Kunst Heute: The Contemporary Art Collection, Part 3.

Ed. Kunstmuseum Bern, Kathleen Bühler. With a preface by Matthias Frehner and contributions by Kathleen Bühler, Gabriel Flückiger, Karin Frei Rappenecker, Anna Friedli, Marianne Gerny-Schild, Esther Maria Jungo, Sarah Merten, Pablo Müller, and Etienne Wismer, hardcover, German/English, ca 192 pages, Kerber Verlag Bielefeld, ISBN 970-3-7356-0017-2 CHF 42.00

Poster



F4
89.5 x 128 cm
CHF 20.00

Supporting Program

Öffentliche Führungen: Dienstag, 19h: 11.*/25. November, 30. Dezember, 13. Januar, 10. Februar, 3./24. März, 21. April und Sonntag, 11h: 26. Oktober, 21. Dezember, 5. April. * mit der Kuratorin Sarah Merten «Früher war alles besser!» – Mitglieder der Ankaufskommissionen sprechen in der Ausstellung mit Kunstschaaffenden über ihre Werke von damals: Jeweils Sonntag, 11h. 30. November: Esther Maria Jungo (freie Kuratorin Fribourg) und Judith Albert / 25. Januar: Noah Stolz (commissaire indépendant Locarno) et Luc Mattenberger (en français) / 22. Februar: Alexandra Blättler (freie Kuratorin, Volkart Stiftung Winterthur und Gebert Stiftung für Kultur) und Florian Germann / 15. März: Urs Stahel (ehem. Direktor Fotomuseum Winterthur) und Claudio Moser **Einführungs-veranstaltung für Lehrpersonen Kunst Heute / Bethan Huws:** Dienstag, 4. November, 18h

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Stiftung GegenwartART
Dr. h.c. Hansjörg Wyss



Burgergemeinde
Bern

PIERRE KOTTELAT

KUNSTMUSEUM BERN
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