



Preview 2025

In 2025, the Kunstmuseum Bern is showing three large monographic exhibitions. The first half of the year is devoted to two pioneers of their time: Marisa Merz, whose work is distinguished by its subtle power, was one of the leading figures of the post-war Italian art scene. Carol Rama is one of the outstanding women artists of the modern period, who only achieved fame late in life. Her works, marked by elemental human experiences, still have an impact today. In the autumn, the Kunstmuseum Bern is showing a large exhibition on Ernst Ludwig Kirchner in which the artist is presented for the first time as a curator of his own work.

Marisa Merz is seen as one of the most important artists of the post-war Italian art scene. She was the only woman artist closely associated with Arte Povera, and reworked numerous art-historical references in her work, using a great variety of everyday objects and materials. The Kunstmuseum Bern is showing the first solo exhibition in Switzerland devoted to the artist for thirty years, including works never shown before and material from the archives.

Working independently of schools and artistic groups, over a period of some 60 years **Carol Rama** created an unconventional body of work, highly personal and shaped by elemental human experiences such as sexuality, madness, illness and death. As early as the 1940s, she paved the way for contemporary feminist art with representations of female desire. The Kunstmuseum Bern is showing the artist's first major retrospective in Switzerland.

The exhibition *Kirchner x Kirchner* takes as its starting point the largest retrospective of the work of **Ernst Ludwig Kirchner** in his lifetime, organized in the Kunsthalle Bern in 1933. The special thing about it: the artist curated the show along with the then director of the Kunsthalle, Max Huggler. The exhibition in the Kunstmuseum Bern, including around 70 works, is devoted to the artist as curator, and shows how Kirchner interpreted his own artistic development and which connections he established between his works.

Marisa Merz. Listen to the Space
31.1.-1.6.2025



Marisa Merz (1926–2019) was one of the leading figures of the post-war Italian art scene, and closely associated with the Arte Povera group, the only woman to be so. The subtle power of her work is apparent in her relationship with silence and poetry, and in her search for the fragility of art corresponding to that of life. In her studio, the sculptor and installation artist transformed space and time into a large collage. At the same time, she moved between numerous art-historical references and a great variety of everyday objects and materials – from aluminium to clay, from copper to nylon, from wax to fabric. Thirty years after her first comprehensive institutional exhibition in Switzerland, the Kunstmuseum Bern is showing iconic artworks alongside works that have not previously been shown and archive material.

Curator

Livia Wermuth

Media preview

Wednesday, **29 January 2025**, 10:00

Opening

Thursday, **30 January 2025**, from 18:00

Cooperation

An exhibition of LaM – Lille Métropole, musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut, Kunstmuseum Bern and Fridericianum Kassel. In collaboration with Fondazione Merz, Turin.

Carol Rama. Rebel of Modernism
7.3.–13.7.2025



Sexuality, madness, illness and death are the big human themes and elemental experiences that Carol Rama (1918–2015) addressed in her art. She is one of the outstanding modern women artists, who came to fame late in life. As early as the 1940s, Rama paved the way for contemporary feminist art with representations of female desire. Independent of schools and artistic groups, she created an unconventional and very personal body of work over a period of about sixty years. The Kunstmuseum Bern is showing the first comprehensive survey exhibition in Switzerland devoted to the Turin artist, with works from all the creative phases of her extraordinary oeuvre. It includes insistently expressive portraits, object montages in the surrealist tradition, as well as abstract paintings and works made of industrial materials.

Curator

Livia Wermuth

Media preview

Wednesday, **5 March 2025**, 10:00

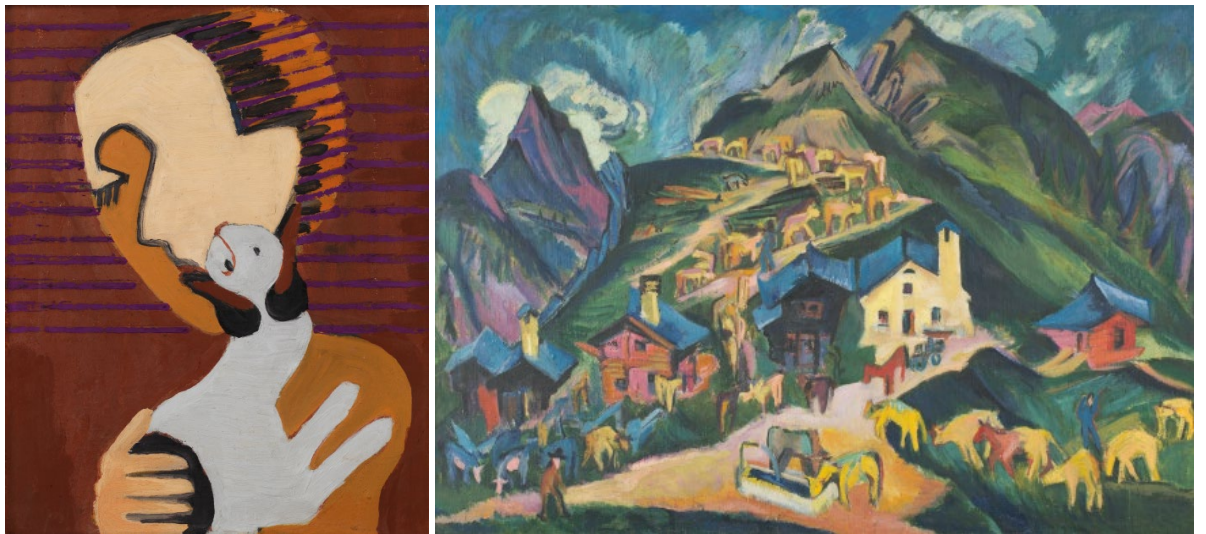
Opening

Thursday, **6 March 2025**, from 18:00

Cooperation

An exhibition of SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT in collaboration with Kunstmuseum Bern.

Kirchner x Kirchner
12.9.2025–11.1.2026



In 1933 the Kunsthalle Bern held the biggest retrospective of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner in his lifetime. The German artist, now considered one of the most outstanding protagonists of classical modern art, curated the show in close collaboration with Max Huggler (1903–1994), the then head of the Kunsthalle and later director of the Kunstmuseum Bern.

With *Kirchner x Kirchner* the Kunstmuseum Bern is looking back at that significant event, while presenting Kirchner as the curator of his own work for the first time. Central to the exhibition is the way in which Kirchner interpreted his artistic development, generously revising it by reworking his paintings or writing texts about himself, and the connections that he established between his works. The exhibition includes some 70 works made in the period between 1908 and 1933, from renowned European and American museums and private collections. The selection of exhibits, in combination with the historical background, makes this ambitious exhibition project a unique and multi-layered experience.

Curator

Nadine Franci

Media preview

Wednesday, 10 September 2025, 10:00

Opening

Thursday, 11 September 2025, from 18:00

Press images

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01

Marisa Merz

Untitled, n. d.

Mixed media and paraffin on Japanese paper,
on carpet

151 × 110 × 5 cm

Merz Collection

Photo: Renato Ghiazza

© 2024, ProLitteris, Zurich



02

Marisa Merz

Untitled, n. d.

Raw clay, colour

17,5 × 16 × 8 cm

Merz Collection

Photo: Renato Ghiazza

© 2024, ProLitteris, Zurich



03

Carol Rama

Untitled (Maternità), 1966

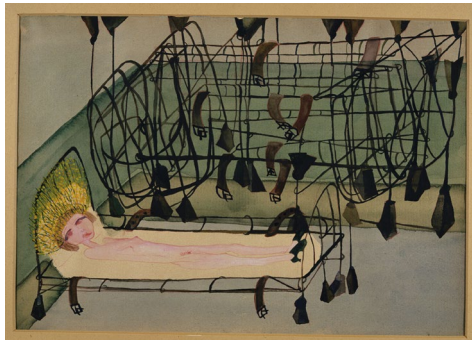
Enamel colour, glue and doll eyes on canvas

90 × 70 cm

Private collection, Turin

Photo: Gabriele Gaidano

© Archivio Carol Rama, Turin



04

Carol Rama

Appassionata, 1940

Watercolour, tempera and coloured pencil on
paper

23 × 33 cm

GAM - Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e
Contemporanea, Turin, Fondazione Guido ed
Ettore De Fornaris

Courtesy Donfazione Torino Musei

Photo: Studio Fotografico Gonella, by courtesy
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05

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner

Mann mit Katze, 1930

Oil on canvas

41,5 × 33 cm

Kunstmuseum Bern

Collection of Professor Dr. Max Huggler –
purchased 1966



06

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner

Alpaufzug, 1918/1919

Oil on canvas

139 × 199 cm

Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, Donald E. Gordon
#539

Current and upcoming exhibitions at the Kunstmuseum Bern

Chaïm Soutine. Against the Current
until 1 December 2024

Amy Sillman. Oh, Clock!
until 2 February 2025

Kunstmuseum Bern of the Future. The Architectural Competition
until 28 September 2025

Kahnweiler & Rupf. A Friendship between Paris and Bern
22.11.2024–23.3.2025

Opening hours

Tuesday
10:00–20:00

Wednesday–Sunday
10:00–17:00

Monday closed

Contact

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Accreditation for media representatives

Admission to all exhibitions at the Kunstmuseum Bern is free for media representatives with a valid press card. Please fill in the digital accreditation form which you can either access via kunstmuseumbern.ch/en/press/media-accreditation or by screening the QR-Code before your visit.

