

A Celebration of Painting – 60 Years of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen

The Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this fall with new accents in the collection, an online symposium with distinguished speakers on the future of museums, a comprehensive exhibition dedicated to the Cubist Georges Braque, and a survey show introducing the internationally celebrated painter Lynette Yiadom-Boakye to Germany for the first time.

The Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen was founded in 1961. To mark the occasion, in 2021 the museum will be devoting more attention to its unique collection of masterpieces of the historical avant-gardes of the twentieth century, focusing on both their genesis and their relevance to society today.

Lygia Pape – A Brazilian Modernist

As of July 6, 2021, the important acquisition of the early painting “Pintura” (1953) by the Brazilian artist Lygia Pape (1927–2004) will be on view in K20. It is one of only four oil paintings on canvas in the artist’s oeuvre. This acquisition stands in conjunction with the preparation of the retrospective exhibition on the artist’s multifaceted oeuvre planned for 2022, as well as with the goal of expanding the collection to also include significant modernist positions from non-Western countries.

K21

Rethinking and Re-envisioning the Collection

Also as of July 6, a new collection presentation titled “Rethinking and Re-envisioning the Collection” focuses on individual works in the collection of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen and poses questions about their historical, social, and political conditions of origin. To kick off the series, Pablo Picasso’s “Woman in Front of the Mirror” (1937) and Maria Helena Vieira da Silva’s “The Flags” (1939) enter into a dialogue for the first time. The juxtaposition of the paintings reveals the standards by which the museum’s founding director Werner Schmalenbach built up the collection in the early 1960s.

Rethinking the Museum – Online Symposium

On September 7 and 8, the question as to what changes the museum is currently undergoing and where it might be headed will be the subject of an international online symposium titled “Rethinking the Museum.” Renowned speakers will include the eminent Jerusalem-based art historian Ruth E. Iskin, as well as Doryun Chong, Chief Curator of M+ in Hong Kong, Ann Temkin, Chief Curator of Collections of the MoMA in New York, and Frances Morris, Director of the Tate Modern in London.

Georges Braque. Inventor of Cubism

A pioneering position of early modernism, represented by several exceptional paintings from the museum’s own collection, will be featured in the exhibition “Georges Braque. Inventor of Cubism” at K20. With sixty works from museums across the globe, the

exhibition presents the particularly fascinating and turbulent early work of this important French artist, which was greatly influenced by the flood of media images of a rapidly changing world at the dawn of the twentieth century.

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye – New Positions in Painting

Parallel to this, “Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. Fly in League with the Night”—the first comprehensive exhibition dedicated to the young British-Ghanaian painter in Germany—will be on view in K20 beginning in October. This show exemplifies the power that painting can have today. The impressive works, which exclusively depict people, stimulate reflection on the potential of painting and on female and male role models, as well as on pressing issues of representation, racism, and diversity.

Partners and Sponsor:***Georges Braque. Inventor of Cubism***

K20, September 25, 2021 – January 23, 2022

The exhibition is supported by HSBC Germany.

The exhibition catalog is sponsored by the Ernst von Siemens Kunststiftung.

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. Fly in League with the Night

K20, October 16, 2021 – February 13, 2022

The exhibition has been conceived by the TATE Britain in cooperation with the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, and the MUDAM Luxemburg.

The exhibition is supported by Schwarzkopf.

Online Symposium “Rethinking the Museum”

September 7 & 8, 2021

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