

K20

Press kit
23. September 2021
page 1/6

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Press kit: Georges Braque

Georges Braque. Inventor of Cubism
Sep 25, 2021 – Jan 23, 2022
K20

Press conference and preview
Thursday, September 23, 2021, 11am, K20

Speakers

- Susanne Gaensheimer, Director Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen
- Susanne Meyer-Büser, curator of the exhibition

Videostatement

- Isabel Pfeiffer-Poensgen, Minister of Culture and Science of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia

K21

Press text exhibition	2
Supporting program, Opening	5
Exhibition preview	6

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Installation views:
<https://www.kunstsammlung.de/en/press/>

#K20Braque
#GeorgesBraque
#K20K21fromhome
#K20

Georges Braque. Inventor of Cubism

Sep 25, 2021 – Jan 23, 2022

K20

The Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen pays tribute to Georges Braque as a pioneering artist of the French avant-garde, an artist who has hitherto received too little attention in Germany. The exhibition focuses on the most important years of his oeuvre, on his particularly fascinating and turbulent early work between 1906 and 1914.

For eight years before the First World War, the young Georges Braque (1882–1963) and his friend Pablo Picasso shaped what was perhaps the most revolutionary stage in the history of modern painting: Cubism. Landscapes and still lifes are his favored motifs. The exhibition reveals how Braque developed or reinvented stylistic means in rapid succession and at the highest level. Fauvism, Proto-Cubism, Analytical Cubism, papier collé, and Synthetic Cubism follow one another in a unique condensation. The speed and intensity of the stylistic changes continue to amaze to this day. Our exhibition presents Braque's work as an example of modern art's exemplary path from a representational to an abstract reproduction of reality. Roughly sixty masterpieces from international museums, private collections, and the holdings of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen shall be brought together and presented in a customized architecture at K20.

K21

The Dynamics of Seeing

The years before the First World War produced groundbreaking inventions, new ways of thinking and philosophies, and the fascinating acceleration of everyday life in Western Europe. It is here that we find the origins of our modern, media age, with which spatial and temporal modes of perception have also completely changed. Automobiles, airplanes, and X-rays thus open up new prospects and dynamic perspectives on the world. The increasingly popular cinema with its surprising image-technical possibilities expanded the horizon of perception and became an inspiration for avant-garde painting. In the history of the oeuvre of the young Braque, who was an enthusiastic cinemagoer and was inspired by the new techniques of film, the events of the time appear as if focused through a magnifying glass. The exhibition delves into this fascination and places Braque's artistic phases in a historical context. Films and documentary material are included in the exhibition in order to allow visitors to experience the connection between the dynamization of everyday life and the development of aesthetic forms in the visual arts, but also to understand the discrepancy between the visual innovations of the pre-war period and the flood of media images in which we live today.

The Patron of Modernism

There are no theoretical treatises by Braque, hardly any correspondence with like-minded artists. Who was Georges Braque? What made him unique within the Parisian Montmartre avant-garde? Braque was radical in pictorial expression, always at the center of events. But unlike his friend Picasso, the virtuoso, spirited, and erratic Spaniard, his contemporaries portray the young Braque as sedate, reliable, and of great intensity. The extremely innovative, but "quiet, slow-working Norman" was trusted among art and collector circles. For Guillaume Apollinaire, Braque was even the "patron" of modern art! The friend and poet

assigned this by all means ambivalent role to him as early as 1912. For him, Braque was the “patron saint,” the “touchstone” of Cubism, and he was to remain so until the end of his life. Even many decades later, after Braque's death in 1963, the renowned German art historian Gottfried Sello confirmed this view: “For France, Braque is the guarantor of artistic continuity. He succeeded in convincing his nation ‘en bloc’ of modern painting.” The exhibition and catalog attempt to critically examine the list of attributions and thus come closer to the real Georges Braque.

The analysis and scholarly research of our own collection are part of our civic mission as a museum. The exhibition concept was developed from the collection of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, which boasts four outstanding works by Georges Braque.

Curator: Susanne Meyer-Büser

Biography – Georges Braque (May 13, 1882 – August 31, 1963)

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1882 | Born in Argenteuil and raised in Le Havre (Normandy); trains as a decorative painter. |
| 1897–1899 | Studies Painting at the École des Beaux-Arts in Le Havre. |
| 1900 | Moves to Paris to study there. First encounter with Matisse and the Fauves. |
| 1907 | In the summer, visits the comprehensive retrospective of the late painter Paul Cézanne at the Salon d'Automne; the study of his works becomes a formative experience. In the fall, he meets Pablo Picasso through his friend, the poet Guillaume Apollinaire, and the art dealer Daniel Kahnweiler. This leads to an intensive friendship lasting roughly seven years and accompanied by a close artistic exchange. |
| 1908 | Braque's landscapes begin for the first time to take on geometric forms. In the years that follow, Braque and Picasso develop Analytical Cubism, papier collé, and Synthetic Cubism. |
| 1914 | In August, Braque is drafted for military service; with this, the exchange between the two mentally very different artists ends. |
| 1963 | Braque dies and receives a state funeral. |

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive publication in German and English published by Prestel Verlag. Six renowned authors shed light on Georges Braque's significance in the context of Classical Modernism, trace his artistic stages up to the beginning of the First World War, and examine his fruitful and difficult friendship with the exceptional artist Pablo Picasso.

Editors: Susanne Gaensheimer, Susanne Meyer-Büser. With contributions by Peter Kropmanns, Brigitte Léal, Véronique Serrano, Jennifer Wild, Michael F. Zimmermann.

Prestel Publishing House, Munich

ca. 256 pages / price in the museum: ca. 38,- EURO; bilingual edition (German/English)

K20

Press kit

23. September 2021

page 4/6

A **K+ Digital Guide** will be published to accompany the exhibition, offering insights into the exhibition and detailed information on the artist and his working methods.

www.kunstsammlung.de/de/digital/kplus

Partners and Sponsors

The exhibition is supported by HSBC Germany and supported by the Ernst von Siemens Kunststiftung.

Media Partner of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen:

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Supported by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

K21

K20

Press kit

23. September 2021

page 5/6

Opening day

Saturday, Sep 25, 2021 from 11am – 8pm

K20

Free entry

Art Guides

11am – 4pm, 6pm – 8pm

Supporting program to the exhibitions

KPMG Art Evening

Oct 6, 8 pm

Picasso, Braque & Cie – The Cubistic Revolution, Documentary by Frédéric Ramade, 2018, 52 min (German version: ARTE 28.10.2018)

with kind permission of Morgane Production and ARTE France

Free admission as part of the KPMG Art Evening; limited number of participants; registration required.

Musical Interventions

Oct 10, Nov 28, Jan 16, 4pm – 5.30pm

On three Sunday afternoons, musical interventions by the well-known nota-bu.ensemble neue musik enable special experiences in front of the works in the exhibition.

Admission with a valid ticket for the exhibition.

Workshops for adults and children

For our workshop programme please check the calendar on our website:

www.kunstsammlung.de/en/calendar/

K21

K20

Press kit

23. September 2021

page 6/6

Marcel Odenbach.

So oder so

Oct 9, 2021 – Jan 9, 2022

K21

Marcel Odenbach (b. 1953), who lives in Cologne, Berlin, and occasionally also in Biriwa, Ghana, has been working with video since 1976. His filmic collages, installations, and performances have contributed to video art becoming a key medium of international contemporary art. Parallel to this, over the course of more than four decades, he has also created an extensive body of works on paper ranging from drawings and concept plans to large, powerful collages. With a selection of roughly sixty works, the exhibition at K21 provides a representative overview of Marcel Odenbach's multifaceted oeuvre, which looks back on forty-five years of contemporaneity.

The exhibition is sponsored by Kunststiftung NRW.

Press conference: October 7, 2021, 11 am, K21

Opening day: Saturday, October 9, 2021, 11am – 8pm, K21

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Fly in League with the Night.

Oct 16, 2021 — Feb 13, 2022

K20

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (b. London 1977) makes figurative paintings drawn from a variety of source materials including life studies, photography and scrapbooks of found images. The figures are fictitious, inhabiting enigmatic settings that are often abstract or non-descript. There is a timelessness to the works; people recline, walk, watch, dance, speak, laugh and confer amongst themselves, much as people do and always have done.

The exhibition is sponsored by Schwarzkopf.

Press conference: October 14, 2021, 11 am, K20

Opening day: Saturday, October 16, 2021, 11am – 8pm, K20

K21