

**K20**

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## **Exhibition Preview 2023 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen**

### **K20**

**Etel Adnan**  
April 1 — July 16, 2023

**Chaim Soutine**  
September 2, 2023 – April 14, 2024

### **K21**

**Jenny Holzer**  
March, 11 — August 6, 2023

**Isaac Julien**  
September 16, 2023 – February, 2024

**K21**

**Andrea Büttner**  
October 28, 2023 – February 18, 2024

**K20****Etel Adnan  
April 1 — July 16, 2023****Press Conference: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 11 am at K20**

The Lenbachhaus in Munich and the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf are jointly organizing the first comprehensive monographic exhibition of the work of Etel Adnan in Germany. Born in Beirut, Etel Adnan (1925–2021) is an important representative of modernism. Her artistic and literary work is characterized by a great and lived exchange between the Arab and Western worlds.

The work of the poet, journalist, painter, and philosopher, who spent her life between Lebanon, France, and California, combines very different art forms, media, languages, and cultures. After the Algerian War of Independence (1954–1962), Adnan refused to continue working in French and showed solidarity with Algeria: "I didn't need to write in French anymore, I was going to paint in Arabic." Her political clarity, as well as the close connection between writing and painting, became an essential feature of her oeuvre.

An exhibition of the Lenbachhaus Munich, and the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, curated by Sébastien Delot, Direktor LaM, Lille métropole musée d'art moderne d'art contemporain et d'art brut.

**K21**

The exhibition is sponsored by the Rudolf August Oetker Foundation.

**Chaïm Soutine  
September 2, 2023 – April 14, 2024****Press Conference: Thursday, August 31, 2023, 11 am at K20**

The Kunstsammlung is dedicating an exhibition to the magnificent work of Chaïm Soutine (1893–1943). His paintings are explosions of color, beautiful and drastic at the same time. He painted pageboys, cooks, altar boys: people who, like him, find themselves on the lowest rung of society. With these, as with the paintings of wavering landscapes and slaughtered animals, he captured the torn attitude to life of an entire epoch.

Soutine grew up in Belarus. In 1913, he moved to Paris. Although the metropolis became his adopted home, Soutine remained an outsider throughout his life, poorly mastering the French language and remaining a stranger to social manners. The overriding theme of the exhibition is emigration and the permanent uprooting of the individual as a consequence of this. This individual as well as social phenomenon spans an arc to the present time, in which rootlessness has become an integral part of the modern attitude to life in the twenty-first century.

Soutine, who had an enormous influence on painting after 1945, is one of the central representatives of classical modernism; in Germany, he is revered in artistic circles.

**K21****Jenny Holzer  
March, 11 — August 6, 2023****Press Conference: Thursday, March 9, 2023, 12 am at K21**

Starting March 11, 2023, the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen will present a sweeping exhibition of the internationally celebrated American artist Jenny Holzer (b. 1950). Since the 1970s, Holzer has been renowned for her thought-provoking use of text in various media and her pioneering adaptation of new technologies. Holzer's Düsseldorf exhibition, spanning K21's Beltage and temporary exhibition galleries, will range from posters to paintings and stoneworks, touching on subjects such as war, absurdity, and populism. In keeping with Holzer's deeply democratic approach and artistic practice, her works challenge viewers to grapple with conflicting perspectives and find their own empathic, open-minded positions in complex debates. This makes the exhibition a public forum for discussions of current global challenges.

Jenny Holzer has presented her astringent ideas, arguments, and sorrows in public places and international exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale, the Guggenheim Museums in New York and Bilbao, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Louvre Abu Dhabi. Her medium, whether a T-shirt, plaque, or LED sign, is writing, and the public dimension is integral to the work. Starting with her New York City street posters and continuing through her light projections on landscape and architecture, her practice has rivaled ignorance and violence with humor and kindness.

Ströer is partner of the exhibition of Jenny Holzer.

**Isaac Julien  
September 16, 2023 – February, 2024****Press Conference: Thursday, September 14, 2023, 11 am at K21**

The first survey exhibition in Germany dedicated to work of the British artist and filmmaker Isaac Julien (b. 1960 in London) reveals the breadth of a groundbreaking oeuvre from its emergence in the 1980s to the present. Julien's critical thinking, aimed above all at an intense engagement with the culture and history of colonialism, is expressed in his early films, as well as in the highly aesthetic film images of the major, internationally acclaimed video installations of the last twenty years.

Julien studied painting and film at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London. In 1983, he was involved in the founding of Sankofa, London, a film and video collective dedicated to making "Black film culture" visible. Isaac Julien's films and installations have been featured in numerous international exhibitions. In 2002, he participated in *documenta11* in the preparatory platform on the topic of "Creolization" in Santa Lucia, as well as with the video installation *Paradise Omeros*. From 2009 to 2015, Julien was Professor for

Film at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design (HfG). In 2021, he was a jury member of the 37<sup>th</sup> Sundance Film Festival. In 2022, he was awarded the Goslar Kaiserring; that same year, he was appointed to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science (AMPAS), entrusted with the annual awarding of the Oscars. Isaac Julien lives and works in London.

The exhibition is being developed in cooperation with Tate Britain, London, where it will be on view from April 27 to August 20, 2023.

**Andrea Büttner****October 28, 2023 – February 18, 2024****Press Conference: October 26, 2023, 11 am at K21**

In her artistic practice Andrea Büttner (b. 1972 in Stuttgart) connects art history with social and ethical issues, exploring a range of topics including poverty, shame, work, community, botany, Catholicism, and philosophy. She alternates between forms like the woodcut, which privileges the use of the hand and the rough interaction of materials, and research-based projects that delineate the broader contexts in which her ideas circulate. Her work examines the relationship between intimate artistic production and public exposure, between mechanisms of representation and ascriptions of value in art and society.

With the exhibition at K21, Andrea Büttner aims to bring together the various strands of her current research and work. Thematically, she focuses on the structural connection of shame, labor, and power, so-called shame punishments and their contemporary relevance, arts and crafts as a political field, and fascist continuities in the ecology movement.

The exhibition is supported by the Stiftung Kunst, Kultur und Soziales der Sparda Bank West.

**Media Partner of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen:  
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