

Bilder einer Metropole Die Impressionisten in Paris Museum Folkwang 2. Oktober 2010 – 30. Januar 2011

Museum Folkwang

Museumspatz 1
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Di – So 10 – 20 Uhr
Fr 10 – 22.30 Uhr
Mo geschlossen
www.museum-folkwang.de

Press Information

Museum Folkwang brings masterpieces from Paris to Essen. Major exhibition on the first modern metropolis in Europe.

Images of a Capital – The Impressionists in Paris begins on 2 October, 2010. The exhibition is under the patronage of Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic. A main project of the Capital of Culture RUHR.2010

30 September, 2010 • From October 2, 2010 to 30 January, 2011 the Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany, is showing, with *Images of a Capital – The Impressionists in Paris*, a unique exhibition with numerous spectacular loans, dedicated to the first modern metropolis in Europe.

The exhibition shows about 80 paintings altogether by the most famous impressionists such as Manet and Pissarro, Monet and Renoir, and important contemporaries such as Caillebotte, Luce and Goeneutte. Among the masterpieces are Renoir's *Ball at the Moulin de la Galette*, 1876, from the Musée d'Orsay, Manet's *The Railway*, 1873 from the National Gallery Washington and Caillebotte's *Paris Street, Rainy Day*, 1877, from the Art Institute of Chicago. At the same time, the exhibition concentrates on a decisive moment in street photography with about 125 photographs, including masterpieces by Gustave Le Gray, Edouard Baldus, Charles Marville, Henri Rivière and Eugène Atget.

The exhibition in the new building by David Chipperfield Architects presents the metropolis of Paris in a number of chapters. It begins with a panoramic view from Montmartre, shows streets and boulevards, squares and monuments, parks and cafés, views from ateliers and apartments. It lets the visitors stroll along the quays, explore the new neighbourhoods and the suburbs to then return to the pulsating big city life to frequent cabarets and restaurants, theatres, circuses and operas by night.

Images of a Capital – The Impressionists in Paris is curated by Françoise Cachin, founding director of the Musée d'Orsay from 1986 to 1994, and from 1994 to 2001 director of the Musées de France. Responsible for the photography section are Françoise Reynaud, curator for photography at the Musée Carnavalet, Paris, and Virginie Chardin, freelance curator.

This exhibition is presented in proven partnership with E.ON Ruhrgas, which, as sponsor, has been making major special exhibitions here at the Museum Folkwang possible for 25 years. The exhibition is a main project of the Capital of Culture RUHR.2010.

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Françoise Cachin, Curator of the exhibition: "When Paris started to undergo rapid transformation around 1860, painters began with unprecedented intensity to make the city the subject of their pictures. They developed new, surprising forms of depiction that gave expression to life in the city. There was no other city where artistic and urban developments were interlinked so closely and in such an exemplary manner. The comparison of painting and photography gives us an incredibly vivid impression of the capital in the 19th century, and I am delighted that we can present it in this exhibition at Museum Folkwang as part of the European Capital of Culture."

Françoise Reynaud, photography curator of the exhibition: "The photographs in this exhibition give us a vivid impression of what makes this medium so special and what is so special about the new views made possible at the time by this new technology. These are works of the greatest photographers of their time. Unlike the painters, the photographers mainly focussed on architecture, construction sites, streets and squares. The early photographs show a Paris devoid of people, which is because of the long exposure times that made it impossible to take a picture of anything in motion. Progressively, with the further technical development, the animation of people appears."

Hartwig Fischer, Director of the Museum Folkwang: "The European Capital of Culture RUHR.2010 presents the world a unique project: a new metropolis under the sign of culture. We have taken this occasion to stage a major exhibition on the first modern metropolis in Europe: Paris in the 2nd half of the 19th century. New boulevards, bridges and squares were built, splendid buildings and train stations, industrial sites at the edge of the city – the city was transformed and so were relations between people. The Museum Folkwang is therefore a suitable place to explore the question of metropolis from an artistic point of view. Interest among visitors is extraordinary, already more than 2,000 guided tours have been booked."

Klaus Schäfer, Chairman of the Board of E.ON Ruhrgas emphasises that the exhibition's theme takes up the metropolis ideas of RUHR.2010: "We couldn't have found a better project. As principle sponsor of the Capital of Culture Year, we hope that the transformation through culture aspired to is successful, as we as a company would profit from that as well. This is why we have been providing such a continued level of support for local culture."

Further information at www.bildereinermetropole.de and in the exhibition flyer.

Press contact

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