

# „Das schönste Museum der Welt“ Museum Folkwang bis 1933 20. März – 25. Juli 2010

Museum Folkwang

Museumsplatz 1  
45128 Essen  
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Di – So 10 – 20 Uhr  
Fr 10 – 24 Uhr  
Mo geschlossen  
[www.museum-folkwang.de](http://www.museum-folkwang.de)

## PRESS RELEASE

The Folkwang Collection's major works reunited again after more than 70 years.

*"The Most Beautiful Museum in the World" – Museum Folkwang until 1933* opens on 20 March  
One of the RUHR.2010 European Capital of Culture's main projects – over 2000 guided tours booked already.

18 March 2010 • From 20 March to 25 July 2010, the Museum Folkwang in Essen will present the unique exhibition: *"The Most Beautiful Museum in the World" – Museum Folkwang until 1933*.

The Museum Folkwang's masterpieces have been reunited again for the first time in over 70 years. The museum's spectacular pre-1933 collection has been reassembled for the first large-scale special exhibition in the New Building designed by David Chipperfield Architects. The Museum Folkwang was home to one of the most significant collections of modern and contemporary art worldwide in the 1920s and early 1930s. On his visit to Essen in 1932, Paul J. Sachs, co-founder of the MoMA in New York, called it "the most beautiful museum in the world".

In 1937, the National Socialist regime confiscated more than 1400 works of what it considered "degenerate" art. This brought a brutal end to the museum's progressive acquisition and exhibition policies. Most of the confiscated works were later sold and are the highlights of the private and public collections to which they now belong. These masterpieces, now located in America, Asia and Europe, will be returning to Essen for a period of four months. They include works by Chagall, Kandinsky, Kirchner, Marc and Beckmann. The exhibition will also unearth a hidden treasure trove: ancient and non-European art works which had long been kept in the museum's storage rooms will be presented again for the first time. The exhibition comprises around 350 art works in total: paintings and sculptures from the modern period, selected works on paper and ancient and non-European art objects. The exhibition will take place with the support of longstanding partner E.ON Ruhrgas, the previous sponsor of several large-scale special exhibitions in the Museum Folkwang. The exhibition is one of the RUHR.2010 European Capital of Culture's main projects.

The patron of the exhibition is the Federal President of Germany, Horst Köhler.

Partner des Museum Folkwang

**e-on** | Ruhrgas



According to Museum Folkwang's director, Hartwig Fischer, "I can hardly describe how it feels to be presenting the wonderful collection that Karl Ernst Osthaus founded in 1902 in Hagen and Ernst Gosebruch continued in Essen in its original splendour in the David Chipperfield-designed New Building. It's a dream come true, and it enables us to look back on the Folkwang's grand history and, at the same time, develop new perspectives for the museum's future. The exhibition represents a considerable contribution to our year as European Capital of Culture, which has taken a guiding principle of Karl Ernst Osthaus as its motto: "Change through Culture, Culture through Change".

Uwe M. Schneede, Director of the Hamburg Kunsthalle from 1991–2006 and guest curator of the exhibition, underlines the historical significance of the project: "The exhibition sheds light on the early institutionalization of modern art and examines the possibilities of connecting the European avant-garde with world cultures in the future."

Bernhard Reutersberg, CEO of E.ON Ruhrgas AG, emphasized the importance of a multifaceted cultural landscape for the region and referred to the company's 25 years of collaboration with the Museum Folkwang. "We promote cultural projects which have the same sustainability as our business in natural gas. We are proud to be able to call ourselves 'Partner of the Museum Folkwang' today."

### **Exhibition information:**

Opening hours: Tue–Sun 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. – midnight, closed on Mondays

Admission (incl. collection): Tue–Fri €10, Sat/Sun and public holidays €12, concessions €7, School visits €15, children under 6 years free

To book guided tours for groups please contact the Folkwang Visitor Office. T +49 201 88 45 444 or email to: [info@museum-folkwang.essen.de](mailto:info@museum-folkwang.essen.de)

A lavishly illustrated catalogue (€29 in museum) and a collection of essays (€12 in museum) to accompany the exhibition have been published as part of the Folkwang/Steidl series. Internationally renowned experts discuss their thoughts on the far-reaching influence of Karl Ernst Osthaus, Ernst Gosebruch and other collectors of the period and examine fundamental questions pertaining to the modern art museum; this includes an evaluation of hitherto unexamined new sources.

For further information please visit [www.dasschoenstemuseumderwelt.de](http://www.dasschoenstemuseumderwelt.de) or see the exhibition flyer.

### **Press contacts**

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