

Museum Folkwang

Images of a Capital – The Impressionists in Paris

2 October 2010 – 30 January 2011

In autumn 2010, the Museum Folkwang, in long-standing cooperation with E.ON Ruhrgas, will be dedicating a large-scale exhibition to the world's first modern metropolis: Paris at the time of the Impressionists.

The artists who lived and worked in the French capital between 1865 and 1900 present a city undergoing rapid change: new boulevards and squares, railway stations and the Paris Métro, the Gare Saint-Lazare and the Quartier de l'Europe, Sacré-Cœur Basilica on Montmartre and the Eiffel Tower by the Seine, as well as the growing industrial sites on the outskirts of the city. For the very first time, Paris itself was becoming a key subject for artists. The Impressionists and their contemporaries developed new painting techniques to portray the society of a modern city, its work and leisure pursuits; the image of life in a modern metropolis.

The exhibition is laid out like a stroll through Paris. It begins with a view of the city and then meanders along the new streets, parks and cafés to the quays, stations and trains, all the way to the suburbs and back again; to the theatres, bars and the circus, ending with the city at night.

Approximately 80 paintings (some of which have been generously loaned by the Musée d'Orsay) by the most famous Impressionists including Manet, Pissarro, Monet and Degas and their distinguished contemporaries such as Caillebotte, Seurat and Luce, will be exhibited along with works from the likes of Adolf Menzel and the young Pablo Picasso, who temporarily worked in the city. By including around 100 photographs from the period, the exhibition presents a uniquely comprehensive and captivating encounter with the first modern-day metropolis.

A catalogue with contributions from renowned European and American academics will be published for the exhibition.

Press conference: 30 September 2010, 11 a.m.