

Press release

Museum Folkwang

New Worlds – Museum Folkwang to present a new collection display, and focus on cross-media exhibitions, collaborations and interventions

Essen, 18.12.2018 – In 2019, Museum Folkwang will present a wide-ranging and interdisciplinary programme with group and solo shows, interventions, and new collection displays. A presentation focusing on *Lyonel Feininger* (beginning 18 January) will launch the exhibition year as part of a three-part series devoted to the Bauhaus. Under the overarching theme of *New Worlds*, in early summer Museum Folkwang will completely redesign the collection display. Besides Feininger, Museum Folkwang will be devoting exhibitions to artists such as Emil Pirchan, Marge Monko, Christian Jendreiko, Veit Stratmann, Margot Bergman, Nancy Spero and William Forsythe. The year closes with a special, epoch-crossing show *Der montierte Mensch (The Assembled Human)*, beginning 7 November, incorporating national and international loans and centring on artistic conceptions dealing with the entanglements between human beings and machines.

As Peter Gorschlüter, the director of Museum Folkwang, emphasises: “The 2019 exhibition programme has been developed on the basis of the Folkwang idea. The interconnection of art and life runs like a common thread through the museum’s interdisciplinary exhibition projects and the work being done on the collection. My top priority in putting together the programme is to place the human being at the centre of our thinking. Every exhibition and event, every visit should make this clear. The Museum is to be a space of dialogue.”

Throughout the coming year, Museum Folkwang will present a variety of artists in solo exhibitions. In February 2019, with more than 350 works, including posters, logos, illustrations and stage designs, the German Poster Museum unearths the multifaceted work of **Emil Pirchan** (1884–1957). During the same period, the Department of Photography will present around 30 photographs and videos by the Estonian artist **Marge Monko**, whose work engages with the visual promises of the fashion and advertising industries. A **Nancy Spero** retrospective will follow, beginning in June. Ten years after her death, Museum Folkwang will present a large-scale survey exhibition dedicated to this fascinating artist, with around 80 works, including works on paper, paintings and installations. **Margot Bergman**’s first ever solo exhibition in Germany will open in May, in a collaboration between Urbane Künste Ruhr and Museum Folkwang.

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The large-scale autumn exhibition ***Der montierte Mensch (The Assembled Human)*** will investigate the reciprocal relationships between human beings and machines from the industrial revolution to the digital age. Crossing media and epochs, the show provides a comprehensive look at artistic engagements with the most influential developments of the past 150 years: industrialisation, technologisation and digitisation. The exhibition reflects on these massive transformations, which themselves mirror social developments. Throughout these processes, artistic forms of expression and popular culture have repeatedly influenced one another. The exhibition will be divided into five chapters, traversing the visual worlds of Marcel Duchamp and El Lissitzky, Fernand Léger, Hannah Höch, and John Heartfield, right through to Eduardo Paolozzi, Rebecca Horn and Ed Atkins.

In 2019, Museum Folkwang will present a complete redesign of its collection display. In the new presentation of the collection, conceived together with the director and curators of the museum, the different areas of the collection will come into contact with showcased works. Arranged in thematically organised rooms that depart from strict chronologies, the different sections of the collection narrate art histories of ruptures, transitions and new beginnings. Confronted with favourite works, rare exhibits and discoveries, viewers will find ***New Worlds*** and new perspectives on a collection rich with tradition opening up for them. The redesigned presentation of the collection will be accompanied by a three-part Bauhaus series with ***Lyonel Feininger*** (beginning 18 January), ***Staging the World*** (beginning 28 April) and ***László Moholy-Nagy*** (beginning 20 September).

The special exhibitions and the new collection display will be accompanied by numerous interventions in the galleries, in the foyer and in the museum's in-between spaces. They get under way with artist and choreographer **William Forsythe**, who has four projects at Museum Folkwang in the coming year. In February 2019, the interactive video work ***City of Abstracts*** will be installed in the museum foyer. This will be followed during the course of the year by ***Human Writes Drawings*** (beginning early summer), ***Aviation*** (beginning 29 June) and the live project ***Acquisition*** in November 2019. With ***Lust & Rätzel (Riddle & Lust)***, beginning 8 March **Christian Jendreiko** will develop a new generative work for Museum Folkwang. Over three months, Jendreiko will work together with internationally renowned sound artists to create an on-site performative environment. Finally, **Young Jae-Lee** will be present at the Museum with ceramics in the Gartensaal (starting 23 May), as will **Veit Stratmann** with ***Module/Essen (Modules/Essen)***, with interventions in the in-between spaces of the building (from July).