

Press Release

Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang Continues its Focus on Community Engagement and Urban Society – 2020 Highlights Include Keith Haring and Martin Kippenberger

Essen, 10.12.2019 – In 2020, Museum Folkwang will present an extensive and interdisciplinary programme, with a focus on socially relevant themes such as the city and urban communities, migration, AIDS or data protection. Alongside a major Keith Haring retrospective and the presentation of Martin Kippenberger's large-scale installation *The Happy End of Franz Kafka's 'Amerika'*, Museum Folkwang is exhibiting the photographic work of Aenne Biermann and the drawings of filmmaker Federico Fellini. The show *Keith Haring* will be accompanied by an exhibition of international posters against AIDS. Additionally, artist Mario Pfeifer will be presenting a brand-new video installation on cyber-criminality. Ten years after Essen was named 2010 European Capital of Culture, an exhibition featuring material from the Baukunstarchiv NRW takes a look at the architecture of cultural institutions in the Ruhr region. From mid-2020, the Photographic Collection will be given a space in which it can permanently present its collection, sparking a dialogue between the perspective of younger photographers and partners from the field of photography.

Peter Gorschlüter, Director of Museum Folkwang, states that "museums and art allow us to reflect upon contemporary events. In 2020, a number of important social issues will be posed by our showcase exhibition on Keith Haring, such as: What makes a modern society? How does it address crises? From the culture of protest to cyber-communities, from migration to urban life, the museum of the 21st century should be a site of open and lively dialogue, synonymous with participation and transparency. And the human being and urban society are always at the heart of our work."

The 2020 exhibition programme kicks off with the retrospective **Aenne Biermann** (opening 21 February). Museum Folkwang owns a significant number of photographic works by Biermann. Through these works, along with material from the collections of the Stiftung Ann und Jürgen Wilde and the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, audiences can get to know the brief but productive working life of this self-taught artist and pioneer of Modernist photography. Beginning in the middle of the year, visitors can gain a more extensive insight into the comprehensive holdings of the Photographic Collection. Alongside the special exhibitions and the collection display *New Worlds*, the underground floor of the museum will serve as a presentation space for photographic work. The space provides the perfect conditions for these light-sensitive exhibits. Central to this

Museum Folkwang

new concept is the dialogue between the museum, its partners, and contemporary photographic practice.

From 13 March, artist Mario Pfeifer will be presenting a new video installation on the underground floor of the museum, which he developed as part of his *VISIT Artist in Residence* grant from the innogy Stiftung on the themes of “cyber-criminality” and “data protection”. Pfeifer’s video works often seek to articulate social critiques and address political issues.

In early summer 2020, the museum will create a thematic focus with a retrospective on the US artist Keith Haring and an exhibition of international posters against AIDS. The focus begins on 8 May with ***Save the Love!*** Free of charge, visitors can peruse some 300 posters from a range of countries, featuring diverse approaches to AIDS awareness-raising campaigns – with some seeking to elicit empathy, and others shock. The display will also feature posters by Keith Haring, to whom Museum Folkwang is dedicating the major retrospective ***Keith Haring*** (opening 29 May). Through his art and his striking, pop-like motifs, time and again, Haring tackled the urgent issues of his age. More than 85 works – including large-format paintings, early drawings, experiments in video and performance art, posters and record covers – convey the full spectrum of his artistic production. Archive material that has rarely or never been exhibited, along with flyers, manuscripts, film and photographic material bring to life the creative spirit of the street and club culture of 1980s New York.

Ten years after Essen was named 2010 European Capital of Culture and after the opening of the new Museum Folkwang building designed by David Chipperfield, in the exhibition ***“And they built that in Gelsenkirchen ...”*** Museum Folkwang is looking back at 70 years of architectural projects in the Ruhr (opening 11 September). Through competition designs, models and original sketches from the Baukunstarchiv NRW, this exhibition traces the architectural ‘biographies’ of several important cultural institutions, such as the Museum Folkwang, the Aalto-Theater in Essen, the Musiktheater im Revier in Gelsenkirchen, and the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat in Bottrop.

To mark 100 years since the birth of Federico Fellini, with the exhibition ***From Drawing to Film*** (opening 23 October), Museum Folkwang is taking a look at the graphic work of the Italian filmmaker. Before beginning his career in film, Fellini worked as a caricaturist, and in the process of inventing the characters and scenes in his films, he often turned to the medium of drawing. Together with film stills, on-set recordings and his most iconic movie scenes, this exhibition illustrates the significance of Fellini’s drawings for his creative process.

Made in the 1990s and rounding out our 2020 programme, Martin Kippenberger’s large-scale installation ***The Happy End of Franz Kafka’s ‘Amerika’*** remains as relevant as ever (opening 20 November). Inspired by Franz Kafka’s unfinished novel *The Man Who Disappeared/Amerika* Kippenberger constructed a zany improvised reception camp for migrants and job-seekers. The 50 seat-and-table ensembles suggest imaginary “job interviews”, confronting visitors with what it feels

Museum Folkwang

like to be an outsider—an existential experience to which countless people are once again subject. For the first time in years, this large-scale installation with the dimensions of a sporting arena will be on display in its entirety in Germany.

In addition, Museum Folkwang continues to work to digitize its collection. In 2020, the Online Collection, which currently comprises some 2,500 exhibits, will be expanded to around 80,000 items. This allows users to carry out in-depth research into our collection, anytime, anywhere. With this measure, Museum Folkwang takes another step in our quest to open up the museum and make it more transparent.

Exhibitions 2020

Aenne Biermann

Intimacy with Things

21 February – 31 May 2020

Press conference: 20 February 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening: 20 February 2020, 7 p.m.

Curator: Thomas Seelig

Mario Pfeifer

13 March – 24 May 2020

Press conference: 12 March 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening: 12 March 2020, 7 p.m.

Curator: Anna Fricke

Save the Love!

International Posters against AIDS

8 May – 16 August 2020

Press conference: 7 May 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening: 7 May 2020, 7 p.m.

Curator: René Grohnert

Keith Haring

29 May – 20 September 2020

Press conference: 28 May 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening: 28 May 2020, 7 p.m.

Curators: Darren Pih, Tamar Hemmes, in collaboration with Hans-Jürgen Lechtreck

Museum Folkwang

"And they built that in Gelsenkirchen ..."

Architecture and Cultural Institutions in the Ruhr Since 1950

11 September 2020 – 10 January 2021

Press conference: 10 September 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening: 10 September 2020, 7 p.m.

Curators: Anna Kloke, Sonja Pizonka, Christin Ruppio, Christos Stremmenos

Federico Fellini

From Drawing to Film

23 October 2020 – 9. Februar 2021

Press conference: 22 October 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening: 22 October 2020, 7 p.m.

Curator: Tobias Burg

Martin Kippenberger

The Happy End of Franz Kafka's 'Amerika'

20 November 2020 – 14 February 2021

Press conference: 19 November 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening: 19 November 2020, 7 p.m.

Curators: Peter Gorschlüter, Hans-Jürgen Lechtreck

6 ½ Weeks

From 7 Februar 2020