

Press release

Museum Folkwang

Exhibition Highlight, Autumn 2019: *The Assembled Human* – 150 Years of Life as a Machine

Essen, 12 August 2019 – In late autumn 2019, Museum Folkwang will present a show that transcends media and epochs to explore the major societal issues and upheavals of the last 150 years. *The Assembled Human* (8 November 2019 – 15 March 2020) presents art as a mirror of industrialisation, technologisation and digitisation. It provides a cultural-historical survey that encompasses key works of painting and graphic design, early experiments in photography, installations and films, along with recent works of Post-Internet Art.

The exhibition focuses on the manifold entanglements between human beings and machines, which are explored in several thematic sections. From the Industrial Revolution to the Information Age, generations of artists have dealt with technological innovations and their impact on humankind. The international loans shown in the exhibition range from photographic records of early industrialisation to Modernist art. They cover experiments in video and performance art from the 1960s through to contemporary art – because today more than ever, technological progress is inextricably linked with anxieties over losses of freedom and individuality. Contemporary works reflect current artistic investigations into the new possibilities and impossibilities that the digital age entails.

With works by Ed Atkins, Bettina von Arnim, Willi Baumeister, Helen Chadwick, Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst, George Grosz, Richard Hamilton, Raoul Hausmann, John Heartfield, Rebecca Horn, Konrad Klapheck, Maria Lassnig, Fernand Léger, Roy Lichtenstein, El Lissitzky, René Magritte, Goshka Macuga, Tony Oursler, Nam June Paik, Francis Picabia, Jon Rafman, Man Ray, Thomas Ruff, Jean Tinguely and many more.

Running parallel to this show, from 11 October 2019 to 15 March 2020 Museum Folkwang is presenting the exhibition *I Was a Robot: Science Fiction and Pop Culture*. *I Was a Robot* provides a fascinating glimpse into pop-cultural products and phenomena related to the intersections between humans and machines. This theme is then explored further in its artistic dimensions in exhibition *The Assembled Human*.

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Information

The Assembled Human
8 November 2019 – 15 March 2020

Main sponsor: RWE

Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia, Brost Foundation, RAG Foundation, Kunststiftung NRW

Supported by the Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Rheinland, Sparkasse Essen

Opening hours
Tue – Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thu, Fri 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Mon closed

Admission
Standard 8 € / concession 5 €

Visitor services Museum Folkwang
P +49 201 8845 444
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Guided tours
60 min 80 €, P +49 201 8845 444



Fernand Léger
Le Mécanicien, 1920
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
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Photo: NGC