

Press Release

Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang Presents Its 2021 Programme: With a focus on dialogues between the arts and connections with urban society

Essen, 10 December 2020 – Museum Folkwang is starting its 2021 exhibition programme with a double show on Martin Kippenberger: his lavish magnum opus *The Happy End of Franz Kafka's 'Amerika'* will be shown in the main exhibition hall, and an extensive collection of his artist books and posters will be on display in Villa Hügel. In 2021 the museum will have a particular focus on photography, film and dance. While the solo exhibitions on Timm Rautert and Tobias Zielony present two generations of artistic photography from Germany, the large-scale survey show *Global Groove* dives into the history of contacts between Far Eastern and Western cultures in art, dance and performance. During autumn/winter, the museum will showcase the extent to which the cinematic work of the famous Italian director Federico Fellini was inspired by drawing. In spring 2021, as a prologue to the anniversary programme in 2022, Museum Folkwang is launching the outreach project *Folkwang and the City*, which will focus on collaborations with various Essen-based initiatives and communities.

Peter Gorschlüter, Director of Museum Folkwang, remarks: “The dialogue between the arts and the focus on urban society will frame our 2021 programme. We are bringing the Folkwang idea into the present. The exhibition programme has a focus on photography, film and dance. Our educational work focuses on the outreach project *Folkwang and the City*, for which we will work with many new partners from Essen. The aim is to strengthen networks and to establish an open house that has an impact on the city”.

On 7 February 2021, the Museum Folkwang exhibition programme begins with the double exhibition **2x Kippenberger** (until 2 May 2021), which presents the work of Martin Kippenberger simultaneously in Museum Folkwang and Villa Hügel. Kippenberger, who grew up in Essen as the son of the director of the Katharina colmine, captivates the viewer with his self-deprecating wit and analytical insight. His late magnum opus *The Happy End of Franz Kafka's 'Amerika'* – a large-scale installation the size of a sporting arena – is being shown for the first time in Essen in the dimensions envisioned by the artist. This major work, into which Kippenberger integrated numerous works by some of his artist friends, is based on the final chapter of Franz Kafka's incomplete novel *Amerika*. Kippenberger translated the literary vision into a three-dimensional image that is at once arena and exhibition. A total of 50 table-and-chair ensembles – some of which are icons of furniture design, some found objects, and some art objects – conjure a Kafkaesque communication space as the setting for simultaneous, mass job interviews. The work

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examines the individual's experience of having to face up to, and assert themselves in, an alien and alienating society.

Parallel to this, Martin Kippenberger's artist books and posters from the Museum Folkwang collection will be on display at Villa Hügel. In ***Forgotten Interior Design Problems at Villa Hügel***, the experimental and sometimes provocative books stand in marked contrast to the classic book collection of the Krupp family. The posters are shown in the former living rooms on the first floor, with a focus on the various ways in which Kippenberger publicly presented himself, and on his position within his network of artist friends.

To mark the 80th birthday of the photographer Timm Rautert, Museum Folkwang is organising a comprehensive retrospective covering half a century of his artistic output. With around 350 works, ***Timm Rautert and the Lives of Photography*** (19 February – 16 May 2021) illustrates the photographer's thematic and methodological versatility. The show stretches from his experimental beginnings as a student of Otto Steinert, to the "image-analysis photography" of the 1970s and his journalistic work and the art-theoretical image constructions that he produced while teaching at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig.

The exhibition ***Tobias Zielony: The Fall*** (25 June – 26 September 2021), will pay tribute to one of the most interesting photographers working today. After 20 years of artistic work, this is the first survey exhibition dedicated to this photographer and video artist, born in nearby Wuppertal in 1973. In his works he deals with the concept of youth culture in relation to place of origin, representation, and fashion, as well as media self-representation.

Global Groove. Art, Dance, Performance and Protest (13 August–14 November 2021) is an interdisciplinary survey exhibition that explores dance as a form of communication. The numerous items on loan, including photographs, paintings, sculptures, films, and live performances, illustrate the contribution the language of dance has made to the political and cultural transformation of societies: from contemporary collaborations to the first happenings of Japanese Butoh dancers and the pioneers of modern dance, a cultural history of contact between the West and the Far East is traced back to the early performances of Asian dancers in Europe around 1900.

The exhibition ***Federico Fellini. From Drawing to Film*** (12 November 2021 – 20 February 2022) focuses on one of the most important filmmakers of the 20th century. He made seminal contributions to film history with productions such as *La Dolce Vita*, *Satyricon* and *La città delle donne*. While devising his films, Fellini often made drawings in order to develop characters or scenes. Using a selection of films as examples, the exhibition juxtaposes the drawings with the

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finished scenes as they ended up on film, plunging the visitor into the director's fascinating visual worlds and unique creative process.

As a prologue to the anniversary activities in 2022, Museum Folkwang is launching the project ***Folkwang and the City*** in spring 2021 (29 April – 30 May 2021). Together with Essen-based initiatives, associations, communities, activists and decision-makers, Museum Folkwang will address important questions about the future; about alternative ways of living, parallel societies, the development of urban spaces and climate change. In 2021, various kinds of tours and all-day programmes will take visitors to a wide variety of places to explore the many facets of the local urban landscape. In 2022, the results of these encounters will serve as the basis for on-site artistic community projects.

In 2021, the residency programme ***Neue Folkwang Residence*** will also be launched in collaboration with the Neuer Essener Kunstverein e.V.. The programme awards two grants every year to artists from Germany and abroad. The residencies last for a period of five months, and take place in Essen. The first cycle starts in summer 2021.

Overview

2x KIPPENBERGER

The Happy End of Franz Kafka's 'Amerika' (Museum Folkwang)

Forgotten Interior Design Problems at Villa Hügel (Villa Hügel)

7 February 2021 – 2 May 2021

TIMM RAUTERT AND THE LIVES OF PHOTOGRAPHY

19 February 2021 – 16 May 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

In Hospital

Ludwig Kuffer, Andreas Langfeld, Elisabeth Neudörfl

4 June 2021 – 7 November 2021

TOBIAS ZIELONY

The Fall

25 June 2021 – 26 September 2021

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GLOBAL GROOVE

Art, Dance, Performance and Protest

13 August 2021 – 14 November 2021

FEDERICO FELLINI

From Drawing to Film

12 November 2021 – 20 February 2022

6 ½ WEEKS

The young exhibition format of Museum Folkwang

From 11 February 2021