

Press release

Museum Folkwang

***Berlin Life* – Posters by Volker Noth** **2 February to 14 April, 2013**

The exhibition presents about 100 posters by Volker Noth (born in 1941) from the collection of the German Poster Museum attached to Museum Folkwang. *Berlin Life* is devoted to Noth's posters for cultural institutions in Berlin since the 1970s. "Berlin's (poster) life" has been enduringly enriched by Volker Noth's cultural posters; his works often polarized opinion and always made for discussion. Noth largely designed posters promoting events by theaters and museums such as the Berlin Film Museum, the Berlin Zoo, the German History Museum, not to mention for numerous departments of the Staatliche Museen Preußischer Kulturbesitz and Berlin's Schiller Theater.

Particularly worthy of mention is Volker Noth's decades-long collaboration with the Berlin International Film Festival and the resulting body of work. Between 1977 and 2001, Noth not only designed the annual festival posters, but also those for the numerous accompanying exhibitions and events such as the Children's Film Festival, the homages and the retrospective. These works in particular demonstrate the communicative zest and authority of Noth's posters.

Noth's works possess a delicate feel for the appeal of posters. Photography and typography are his fundamental elements, and he often combines them with strong colors to form highly-contrasting surfaces. His posters are seldom "loud" and strident, but rather forceful and colorful, and are persuasive rather than overpowering. Noth defers his own artistic wishes to the communicative intentions – more often than not this is precisely what constitutes the special charm of his work. His personal style hints at the respect that drives him when interpreting a topic.

The German Poster Museum in the Museum Folkwang is the only institution to own all the posters Volker Noth has produced, and from the over 400 posters in the collection around 100 were chosen for the *Berlin Life* exhibition. Some of the themes enable us to trace the steps from initial sketch to finished poster. The exhibition is complemented by examples of Volker Noth work in book design. As such, it offers a representative cross-section of his work.

A catalog will be published by Edition Folkwang / Steidl (20 Euro).

Image material for downloading is available at www.museum-folkwang.de

Opening times Tue. to Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., closed Mondays

Besucherbüro Museumsplatz 1, 45128 Essen, T +49 201 8845 444/000,
info@museum-folkwang.essen.de

Press desk Anna Littmann, T +49 201 8845 160, presse@museum-folkwang.essen.de