

Press release

Museum Folkwang

„Our age has a New Sense of Form “

Photography, Graphic and Posters in the 1920s

Three new exhibitions from the Photography and Graphic Arts Collections and the German Poster Museum from 28 April 2012 to 5 August 2012

New technical possibilities and new aesthetic theories led to an entire range of new styles internationally in the 1920s. Photography, film and illustrated magazines fascinated the avant-garde and inspired them to experiment and explore. The artists of New Sobriety distanced themselves consciously from Expressionism; they sought to reproduce the optical appearance of things. In this decade, Constructivism also reached full bloom. With the shared title *Our Age has a New Sense of Form*, the Photographic Collection, the Graphic Arts Collection and the German Poster Museum focuses on this innovative and productive period of art in three exhibitions.

With around 150 images and magazines, the Photographic Collection illustrates “New Seeing” in photography. The specific manner of depiction in this time, such as extreme perspective, photomontage and photogram can be found in the works of internationally reputed photographers such as László Moholy-Nagy, Man Ray, Albert Renger-Patzsch, Edward Weston and Walter Peterhans. One section is dedicated to the works of female photographers, who conquered new areas of activity in this decade. Works by Aenne Biermann, Florence Henri, Germaine Krull and Annelise Kretschmer bear witness to the artistic production of these years.

The Graphic Arts Collection presents around eighty works, including those by Max Burchartz, Otto Dix, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Alexander Kanoldt. Apart from portraits and landscapes, one thematic focus is especially Constructivist works. A highpoint of the exhibition is the series *Victory over the Sun* with ten of El Lissitzky's color lithographs from 1923, which was re-acquired by the Museum Folkwang a few years ago after having been confiscated and sold as “degenerate” in 1938.

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The German Poster Museum presents around seventy works in three areas which reflect the development of posters in the 1920s. Expressionism was taken up in poster design for a time, as in the new genre of political posters, film posters and dance posters. At the same time, the decorative style was maintained, a style which moved between Art Nouveau and Art deco, as shown in the works by Walter Schnackenberg. A third major line is *New Typography*, influenced by Bauhaus ideas, as shown in the works of Jan Tschichold.

Information

Catalogue: Edition Folkwang / Steidl

Slipcase 28 Euro; Individual Catalogue 10 Euros each - only in the Museum

Images for download www.museum-folkwang.de

Opening Hours Tue – Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. – 10.30 p.m., Monday closed

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