

BUNDESKUNSTHALLE



The Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn - in short, the Bundeskunsthalle - is a unique venue devoted to art, culture and science. Central to the programming are exhibitions of art of all periods, including contemporary art, as well as shows devoted to cultural history, archaeology, science and other areas of knowledge.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS 2020/2021

BEETHOVEN

World.Citizen.Music

17 December 2019 to 26 April 2020

In cooperation with the Beethoven Haus Bonn, the Bundeskunsthalle marks the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 2020 with a major exhibition.

The interdisciplinary exhibition traces the key events and phases of Beethoven's life and correlates them with his singular musical oeuvre. The central narrative is underpinned by a series of select special focus sections – for example 'Beethoven as a Patient', 'Networks' or 'Business Strategies' – each of which relates to key works. The exhibition presents unique original objects and iconic portraits to shed light on the composer's personality and scrutinise the many clichés and myths that have grown around him over the course of the last 200 years. Period instruments and audio stations invite visitors to immerse themselves in Beethoven's captivating musical cosmos. Further to his creative practice, the exhibition explores the cultural and historical context of the composer's life and work.

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WE CAPITALISTS

From Zero to Turbo

13 March to 12 July 2020

Capitalism is far more than simply an economic system. It is a social order that has shaped our thinking, perception and existence for centuries. Approaching the topic from a cultural and historical perspective, the exhibition examines the fundamental characteristics of Capitalism – rationalisation, individualisation, accumulation, money and investment as well as typically Capitalist dynamics such as unrestricted growth and creative crises. In a way, this ‘DNA of Capitalism’ has long become part of our own DNA. How does Capitalism shape our identity and history, for example in terms of our individuality, sense of time, and attitude to material possessions? Can or must we change it – and do we want to? With a selection of objects taken from the realms of art, history and everyday popular culture, the exhibition sheds light on a complex subject of great social relevance that touches each and every one of us.

JULIUS VON BISMARCK

Fire with Fire

27 March to 30 August 2020

‘I draw inspiration from science and work creatively,’ says Julius von Bismarck about his strategy. Always on the lookout for different forms of perception, he investigates man, nature and technology with the means of art. In his work *Egocentric System*, he subjected himself to centrifugal forces by spending extended periods of time in a shallow, fast-spinning concrete bowl to explore and manipulate his own perceptions and those of the viewer. In *Punishment*, he flogged the sea in Rio de Janeiro, the Statue of Liberty in New York and the mountains in the Alps. He chased hurricanes in the US and tamed lightning bolts in Venezuela to explore the aesthetic aspects of the forces of nature. Von Bismarck processes these artistic expeditions into fascinating works. However mighty and devastating the elemental forces may be, in his work we become aware of the infinite beauty inherent in catastrophic events. The exhibition visualises von Bismarck’s creative engagement with forest fires in a multimedia installation, sound and sculptures. The exhibition taps into our subconscious and presents a striking ‘psycho-analysis of fire.



STATE OF THE ARTS

Video – Installation - Performance

17 April to 28 June 2020

The exhibition State of the Arts presents one of the most intriguing artistic phenomena of our time: the fusion of the dramatic and the fine arts. Today, more often than not, the experience of art is not just purely visual. Instead, it is a more comprehensive experience that involves all the senses. Artists combine dance, performance, poetry and music and invite the audience to engage with art on a multisensory level. This may also involve becoming part of the work and transcending the customary detachment of spectatorship. The fusion of the arts and the blurring of the distinction between disciplines are markers of contemporary art that emerged in the 1960s. By now, the conceptualisation of artistic media as broad and interconnected has become widely accepted. The exhibition brings together works that oscillate between the disciplines – performative sculptures, sound objects and multimedia installations as well as performances in the exhibition space.

DOPPELEBEN

Visual Artists Making Music

19 June to 4 October 2020

Taking its starting point in the sizable number of important artists who are as dedicated to musicmaking as they are to their visual practice, the exhibition focuses on the presentation of music. Large-screen projections of videos of concert and studio performances conjure a sense of being present at the live event and showcase different approaches to staging performance situations. The exhibition spans the period from the early twentieth century to the present. Beginning with Duchamp and the Futurists, Yves Klein and the Fluxus artists Nam June Paik and Yoko Ono, it moves on to the key figures of the 1960s and 70s such as A. R. Penck, Gerhard Rühm or Hermann Nitsch. The protagonists of Proto-Punk like Captain Beefheart and Alan Vega usher in the numerous artists' bands of the 1980s that numbered artists like Albert Oehlen or Pipilotti Rist among their members. The stylistically more heterogeneous scene since the 1990s is represented by Carsten Nicolai, Emily Sundblad et al.



MAX KLINGER

und Europa

4. September 2020 – 10. Januar 2021

Max Klinger (1857–1920) is one of the most controversial artists of the Symbolist movement. In his paintings and sculptures, he turned away from the stale academicism and idealisation that governed figuration at the time and embraced a naturalism that shocked his contemporaries. His novel approach played an important role in the modern conceptualisation of the human figure. Inspired by Wagner's idea of the Gesamtkunstwerk, Klinger sought to overcome the division of the creative disciplines and to fuse painting, sculpture, architecture and even music into a single harmonious whole. His monumental Beethoven statue of 1902, widely regarded as the epitome of late romantic veneration of the composer, will go on display in Bonn at the end of the Beethoven anniversary year of 2020. The retrospective marking the 100th anniversary of Klinger's death in 2020 sets out to open the way for the long overdue reassessment of the artist's work.

DRESSCODE

Are you playing fashion?

19. September 2020 – 31. Oktober 2021

How did you choose the clothes you are wearing today? Designer dress or jeans, suit or sweatpants, pullover or uniform – every culture, society and group has its own dress codes. They set the framework, but they leave us room to come up with our individual take on the rules. Sometimes, we make our choices depending on how we feel. At others, the decision is based on the occasion for which we dress – or the person we want to meet. Moreover, we want our clothing style to give expression to our personality. After all, fashion is not just the act of wearing clothes, it is also the act of seeing and being seen – nowadays preferably by a vast audience on social networks. Dress Code – the hugely successful exhibition from Japan – shines a light on fashion as a reflection of society and the zeitgeist, all the way to today's stylistic plurality. It presents a global overview of present-day fashion, especially streetwear, by celebrated designers such as Giorgio Armani, Chanel, COMME des GARÇONS, Issey Miyake, Burberry® and Louis Vuitton, set in a dialogue with contemporary art. And it examines different and opposing attitudes to fashion – those of participants and spectators, individualists and conformists. Fashion becomes a communicative game that can lead us to a new understanding of the way we deal with fashion.



JERUSALEM

Longing for the Holy City

27 November 2020 to 28 March 2021

The biblical city of Jerusalem has a history that goes back several thousand years. A melting pot of different cultures and religions, it is marked by symbols and myths. The singularity and complexity of the city rests first and foremost on the shared history of the three Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – and their holy sites. The city's significance as a religious centre, as a site of hope and dreams of salvation, has made it a phenomenon. Few cities have had as many depictions devoted to them – many of them capturing an idealised vision rather than a real place. The exhibition showcases the countless images of Jerusalem in European art and cultural history and examines the multifarious religious and artistic ideas, political dreams and scientific findings that gave rise to them. It presents the splendid relics, reliquaries and souvenirs conquerors and pilgrims alike have been bringing back to Europe ever since the Middle Ages as well as the books and paintings, travelogues and historical models created in Europe by artists, writers and scholars.

BEUYS – LEHMBRUCK

Thinking is Sculpture

There are not many artists who caused as radical an upheaval in the history of art as Joseph Beuys. With his concept of Social Sculpture, he sought to apply the liberating potential of art to all areas of life. At the very heart of his thinking was the dissolution of the boundaries between art and society, politics, science and education. Thus Beuys gave rise to a new, expanded concept of art. In 1986, just a few days before his death, Beuys was awarded the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Prize. In his acceptance speech, he stressed the importance the art of the Expressionist sculptor had for him. He explained how his encounter with Lehmbruck's work had led him to art in the first place and traced a connection between Lehmbruck and the development of his own concept of Social Sculpture. Marking the 100th birthday of Joseph Beuys, the exhibition *Beuys – Lehmbruck. Thinking is Sculpture* explores that idea and presents the work of the two artists.



Additional exhibitions are in planning.
The updated program can be found at: www.bundeskunsthalle.de

Status: February 2020
Subject to change

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