

## KUNSTHALLE MANNHEIM

### EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS 2020/2021

The Kunsthalle Mannheim is looking forward to a varied exhibition programme in 2020 and 2021.

The first highlight of the year is in May, when new Director Johan Holten curates his first exhibition since joining the museum in September 2019. **“Upheaval” (May 15 – September 6, 2020)** harnesses the forces of external change that transformed the museum exterior in order to rethink the way artworks are curated and presented within the institution. “I want to shift visitors’ focus from the outside to the inside,” Holten explains. Three interlinked exhibitions bring pioneering processes of transformation to life. The spectrum of works on display ranges from rediscovered female artists of the 1920s and ’30s to contemporary sculpture and video works by international figures.

In October, a special exhibition devoted to **Anselm Kiefer (October 2 – March 21, 2021)** marks a new highlight in the museum calendar. The show will present works by one of Germany’s best-known postwar artists. The large-scale multidimensional paintings and sculptures shown include early works such as “Large Load” (1981/1996), which incorporates lead objects; the installation “Palm Sunday” (2007), in the middle of which is an actual palm tree; and the immersive sculpture “The Lost Letter” (2011–17). The airy and spacious new exhibition building is the perfect location for Kiefer’s monumental works to reveal their full potential. The sheer scale of his pieces and the range of topics they explore, together with their haptic materiality—Kiefer makes frequent use of ash and lead—combine to make the exhibition deeply impressive.

In 2021 the Kunsthalle Mannheim dedicates a special exhibition to the Belgian painter and draughtsman **James Ensor (March 4 – July 5, 2021)**. With his surreal, bizarre mask and skeleton pictures Ensor (1860-1949) held up a mirror to the society of his time. Both symbolist and pioneer of Expressionism, his work displays elements of the grotesque and fantastic. The exhibition focuses on the painting with masks and death motifs confiscated in 1937 at the Kunsthalle Mannheim and now in Liège, and on “The Dead Cockerel”, acquired as a replacement in the 1950s.

The exhibition **Mother! (April 16 – August 15, 2021)**, analyses the iconography of motherhood in the art of the 20th and 21st centuries and highlights various aspects of the role of the mother in society. The exhibition takes place in cooperation with the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art.

## **ABOUT THE KUNSTHALLE MANNHEIM**

The Kunsthalle Mannheim is one of the first public collections of modernist works anywhere in the world. Founded in 1909, the museum's collection numbers among the most renowned public collections in Germany, highlighted by masterworks from Edouard Manet to Francis Bacon and a special focus on sculpture.

Fritz Wichert (1909–1923) laid the foundations for a collection centered on modern art with his early purchases of works by French modernists such as Edouard Manet, Camille Pissarro, and Vincent van Gogh. His successor, Gustav F. Hartlaub (1923-1933), was interested in post-war art that focused on an objective way of seeing, which he named "Neue Sachlichkeit" (New Objectivity). Walter Passarge (1936-1958) built up the collection of modern art during the Nazi dictatorship. After the Second World War, under Heinz Fuchs (1958-1983) and Manfred Fath (1983-2002), the collection's focus on contemporary sculpture was further expanded.

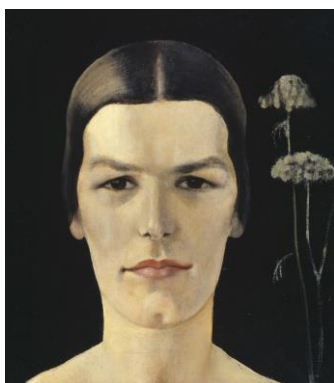
The new museum complex was opened in 2018, made possible by the private 50-million-euro donation from SAP co-founder Dr. h.c. Hans-Werner Hector and by contributions from the city of Mannheim, the state of Baden-Württemberg, and other donors as a shining example of private-public partnership. The new Kunsthalle Mannheim is a "museum in motion" in the concept of a "city within the city" – engaging and dynamic, innovative and cosmopolitan. Basic elements of the city such as the house, the alleyway, the square, and the bridge are the guiding principles of gmp's new architecture (architects Gerkan, Marg und Partner). The curatorial program also ties in with everyday life in urbanized society and raises questions about the relevance of art for our lives.

## **PRESSEBILDER PRESS PICTURES**



**Außenansicht Kunsthalle Mannheim**  
Exterior view Kunsthalle Mannheim

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**Umbruch (15.05.-06.09.20)**  
Upheaval (May 15 – September 6, 2020)

Anita Rée  
Bildnis Hildegard Heise, 1927

© Hamburger Kunsthalle, Elke Walford



**Anselm Kiefer (02.10.20-21.03.21)**  
Anselm Kiefer (October 2 – March 21, 2021)

Anselm Kiefer, Palmsonntag, 2007,  
Sammlung Grothe in der Kunsthalle Mannheim

© Anselm Kiefer, Foto: Charles Duprat



**James Ensor (4.3. -5.7.2021)**  
James Ensor (March 4 – July 5, 2021)  
James Ensor, Der tote Hahn, 1894

© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019



**Mutter! (16.04. -15.08.21)**  
Mother! (April 16 – August 15, 2021)

Alberto Giacometti, Femme-  
cuillère, 1926/1927,  
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art

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