

Press Kunsthalle

Bielefeld

2014 Exhibitions

The Hölzel Circle up to 1914 – an exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bielefeld in 1974—initiated what is now known as the Bunte Collection. Now, forty years later, the Hermann-Josef Bunte Collection links Westphalia with southern Germany. At the heart of the collection—which spans the arc from Westphalian Expressionism to the Stuttgart avant-garde around Adolf Hölzel—is Hermann Stenner, a native of Bielefeld. His works make up the core of the Bunte Collection, which is primarily devoted to maintaining and researching his oeuvre. In the meantime the collection has become the largest private collection of Stenner's work anywhere.

Besides Peter August Böckstiegel, the Westphalian roots are represented by artists such as Hermann Freudenau, Ernst Sagewka, and Victor Tuxhorn, the group of «Bielefeld Modernists» that formed when the Modernist-oriented school for arts and crafts was founded in 1907 in the city. The group also served as the first artistic breeding ground for the young Hermann Stenner. Over the five short years of his career, before he fell on the Eastern Front in Russia in 1914 at the age of just 23, Stenner's work achieved an astonishing artistic maturity. «He would have become the best painter in Germany,» wrote his fellow art student, Willi Baumeister, looking back in 1950.

Aside from the enlightening comparison between the Expressionistic formal vocabulary predominant in northern Germany and the path toward abstraction taken in southern Germany, the Bunte Collection also traces Stenner's artistic career within a context of teachers, comrades, and fellow artists, as represented by the works of Peter August Böckstiegel, Christian Landenberger, Johannes Itten, Ida Kerkovius, Willi Baumeister, Oskar Schlemmer, and Adolf Hölzel.

A century after World War I began, the Kunsthalle Bielefeld also remembers the artists killed in the war, such as August Macke (†1914), Franz Marc (†1916), Wilhelm Morgner (†1917), Franz Nölken (†1918), Hermann Stemmler (†1918), Hermann Stenner (†1914), and Josef Alfons Wirth (†1916).

The exhibition features more than 250 works from all genres: paintings, watercolors, drawings, prints, and sculptures on both floors of the Kunsthalle Bielefeld. It is sponsored by the Kulturstiftung pro Bielefeld.

With an exhibition of contemporary works of art from a variety of private collections, the Kunsthalle is creating a new, temporary collection in which the citizens of the city can participate in the roles of both observer and collector alike. Not only does the show gather together works from various provenances, but it also creates new connections between collectors and visitors. For the Kunsthalle Bielefeld the concept is to present contemporary, brand-new art of museum quality that has been hidden in galleries and in the collections of young citizens of Bielefeld, in a higher-level context.

**The Quest for
Happiness in Art:
Expressionism
and Abstract Art
around 1914**

**The Bunte
Collection**

21 03 14

03 08 14

**The Pandora-
Project
The Pleasures and
Responsibilities
of Collecting**

14 09 14

23 11 14

Sophie Taeuber- Arp 1889–1943. Retrospective 12 12 14 15 03 15

In cooperation with the Aargauer Kunsthaus in Aarau, Switzerland, the Kunsthalle Bielefeld will present in winter 2014/2015 a comprehensive retrospective of the works of Sophie Taeuber-Arp—the first in a long while. Taeuber-Arp was born in 1889 in Davos and fell victim to a tragic, fatal accident on January 13, 1943. She was one of the most important artists in the first half of the 20th century, as she sought new, genre-crossing forms of expression in painting, dance, architecture, and design. For many years her work was overshadowed by that of her husband's, Hans Arp. She was active in the DADA movement of the 1920s in Zurich, as was Arp. In 1926 she and Arp moved to France, where she made crucial contributions to the development of so-called Concrete Art formulated in Paris in the 1930s.

Most of Taeuber-Arp's work is now in Switzerland; recently, an estate containing design objects by Taeuber-Arp was bequeathed to the Aargauer Kunsthaus in Aarau, which already has a considerable collection of her work. Hence, our collaborative exhibition offers a special opportunity to present for the first time in public new aspects of Taeuber-Arp's work in crafts, design, and dance for, along with previously unknown documents concerning her work.

After its comprehensive retrospective of the work of Sonia Delaunay in 2008, the Kunsthalle Bielefeld is continuing its series of thematic exhibitions of the works of great 20th-century women artists with the exhibition of the work of Sophie Taeuber-Arp. An extensive catalogue in German and English will accompany the show.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Kunststiftung NRW and the Sparkasse Bielefeld.

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