

# Presse Kunsthalle

Bielefeld

Sophie Taeuber-Arp was one of the most outstanding artists in the first half of the 20th century. In her cross-genre work she sought new forms of expression in painting, dance, architecture, and design. Her masterful treatment of form and color, as well as her subtle inclusion of modern art concepts allowed her to develop an inimitable artistic signature, which is repeated in a wide variety of media. »Sophie Taeuber-Arp. Today is Tomorrow« offers an unprecedented chance for visitors to explore in depth this artist's cross-genre concepts and approaches in nearly 200 exponents. Her pioneering achievements in Modernism can at last be appreciated in full.

After the Aargauer Kunsthau in Aarau, Switzerland, the Kunsthalle Bielefeld is the only place in Germany where this extensive exhibition of Sophie Taeuber-Arp will be shown. Here, major works from the Kunsthalle Bielefeld's own collection—by Hans Arp, Sonia Delaunay, Robert Delaunay, Max Ernst, and others—will supplement the Swiss exhibition.

Sophie Taeuber-Arp is doubtless well known—her portrait ornaments the 50 Swiss franc note—and she is also known as the wife and artistic comrade of Hans Arp. Still, there has been little research into the actual character of her oeuvre. The image we have of Taeuber-Arp is still influenced by the posthumous statements made by Hans Arp, who described his wife as a dreamer and a primarily intuitive artist. The index of works he commissioned after her death contains only the so-called high art—paintings, drawings, and sculpture—and does not include her artisanal and architectural works. The exhibition »Sophie Taeuber-Arp. Today is Tomorrow« would like to revise this one-sided image. The show considers the artist's work as a whole, giving equal weight to all of the different media and genres, for Taeuber-Arp's pioneering achievements lie in her cross-genre, relaxed, and very deliberate treatment of her creative resources.

The works on display have been selected from a retrospective standpoint; they represent all of her creative phases, and do justice to Taeuber-Arp's striking conception of art. High-quality works on loan from international and national museums, the institutions that manage her estate, and various private collections supplement the substantial body of work from the collection at the Aargauer Kunsthau. Among them are works that were acknowledged during Taeuber-Arp's lifetime, as well as works later recognized by art historians, including a series of oil paintings, reliefs, and works on paper. With these works the artist made a lasting contribution to the Concrete and Constructive vocabularies. However, lesser-known works are also on display: textile and costume designs, weaving, and jewelry, which Taeuber-Arp began creating in the 1910s. Even though these designs were ahead of their time, her artisanal work has been largely neglected within the context of art.

**Sophie  
Taeuber-Arp  
Today Is  
Tomorrow**  
12 12 14  
15 03 15

**Press conference**  
11 12 14  
11 a.m.

**Opening**  
12 12 14  
7 p.m.

A very special highlight of the show consists of the original marionettes that Sophie Taeuber-Arp designed in 1918 for an updated production of Carlo Gozzi's play, »The King Stag«. This is the first time they will be on display in Germany.

With this exhibition, the Kunsthalle Bielefeld is continuing its series on the great female Modernist innovators of the 20th century, which began with Sonja Delaunay in 2008. Each of the artists had her own unique formal vocabulary, but both were long regarded only in the shadows of their famous spouses, Robert Delaunay and Hans Arp.

Exhibition curator: Thomas Schmutz, Curator and Deputy Director of the Aargauer Kunsthaus

Bielefeld curators:  
Friedrich Meschede, Director of the Kunsthalle Bielefeld  
Jutta Hülsewig-Johnen, Head of Collections  
Henrike Mund, Curatorial Assistant

The exhibition in Bielefeld is produced under the auspices of Ute Schäfer, Minister of Families, Children, Youth, Culture, and Sports of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, and is financed by the Stiftung der Sparkasse Bielefeld and the Kunststiftung NRW.

To accompany the exhibition, an extensive catalogue in German and English, featuring texts by Rahel Beyerle, Sarah Burkhalter, Medea Hoch, Brigitte Maier, Walburga Krupp, Sigrid Schade, Thomas Schmutz, Meike Steinkamp, and Rudolf Suter, is being published by Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess (Zurich, 2014, 288 pp., 58 euros. ISBN 978-3-85881-432-6).

---

For more information, please contact:

Anne Kaestner  
Kunsthalle Bielefeld  
Press and Public Relations  
0049 (0)521 329995017  
[kaestner@kunsthalle-bielefeld.de](mailto:kaestner@kunsthalle-bielefeld.de)

Artur-Ladebeck-Strasse 5  
33602 Bielefeld  
[www.kunsthalle-bielefeld.de](http://www.kunsthalle-bielefeld.de)

---