

Presse Kunsthalle

Bielefeld

In advance of the 800th anniversary of Bielefeld, the "city of linen," the Kunsthalle will present an exhibition of textiles in art. Textiles have not been considered a mere craft since the Bauhaus era, at the very latest. Carpets and tapestries have long been regarded as products of not only manual labor, but also of intellectual, conceptual creativity. In the 20th and 21st centuries the spectrum of artistic approaches to textiles ranges from the study of ornamental, non-European art, to explorations of color, to inquiries into materiality and the ironic and critical treatment of fabric and weaving.

Starting with the Vienna Workshops and Sonia Delaunay's fabric designs, the exhibition will focus on tapestries, fabric patterns, and designs by women artists from the Bauhaus, especially Anni Albers, who was a close friend of Philip Johnson's, the architect who designed the Kunsthalle and who was a great admirer of Albers' work. Another special section of the show is devoted to the Bauhaus artist Benita Koch-Otte, who spent twenty years of her life as the head of the weaving workshop at the Bodelschwingsche Anstalten in Bielefeld. Thanks to the generous support of the Bethel Historical Collection, her legacy will be made available for the first time to a broader audience. Works on display will range from textile works of the 1960s and 1970s, including pieces by Blinky Palermo, Alighiero e Boetti, and Sigmar Polke, to pieces by contemporary artists such as Olaf Nicolai, Aiko Tezuka, and Erzen Shkololli, who rediscovered the "craft" of textiles for themselves, questioning it and experimenting with new forms of expression. Olaf Nicolai has designed a curtain for the lecture hall at the Kunsthalle, which will remain on permanent display. The exhibition is sponsored by the Kunststiftung NRW, and Christina Rau is the honorary patron of the exhibition. A catalogue will be published.

List of artists:

Josef Hoffmann, Koloman Moser, Sonia Delaunay-Terk, Anni Albers, Gunta Stölzl, Benita Koch-Otte, Sofie Dawo, Elisabeth Kadow, Aiko Tetsuki, Blinky Palermo, Erzen Shkololli, Jason Dodge, Olaf Nicolai, Rosemarie Trockel, Richard Tuttle, Friedrich Teepe, Sheila Hicks, Carl Andre, Andrea Zittel, and others

Photo attachments:

Anni Albers, *Tapestry (Black-White)*, 1927/1964, two-ply fabric, cotton, rayon; 147 x 119 cm, Bauhaus Archive, Berlin, © Bauhaus-Archiv Berlin / VG Bild-Kunst Bonn.

Benita Koch-Otte, *Early Summer (Task 86)*, undated, watercolor, 11 x 15 cm, Kunsthalle Bielefeld, © photo: Ingo Bustorf, for Koch-Otte: v. Bodelschwingsche Stiftungen Bethel

To Open Eyes. Art and Textiles from the Bauhaus to Today 17 11 13 16 02 14 Kunsthalle Bielefeld

Press Preview:

Thu, Nov 14 13 / 11:30 a.m.

Opening:

Sun, Nov 17 13 / 11:30 a.m.

Press Contact: Christiane Heuwinkel,+49 521 329995017, heuwinkel@kunsthalle-bielefeld.de