



**Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern**

Exhibitions 2012

Bürgi Archive Donation

25.1. – 20.5.2012

Curator Eva Wiederkehr Sladeczek

Uncanny. Witches, phantoms and demons in Paul Klee

10.3. – 20.5.2012

Curator Fabienne Eggelhöfer

The exhibition deals with Paul Klee's interest in the spiritual. Spirits and ghosts, witches and magicians are favourite motifs in Klee's work, as well as figures from Greek mythology, such as gods and monsters.

Between heaven and hell the saints and the demons meet. In keeping with his view of the world, Klee tried to connect the world on the other side with the real world in his artistic work. Thereby he is not just concerned with the pictorial application of the intangible and the uncanny but often there is also an ironical commentary on the esoteric discussions during his years in Munich.

The exhibition is made up of ca. 180 paintings and works on paper by Paul Klee.

L'Europe des esprits – the magic of the intangible from the Romantic to the Modern

31.3. – 15.7.2012

Exhibition in collaboration with the museums in Strasbourg / Musées de Strasbourg

Curator Serge Fachereau, in collaboration with Michael Baumgartner and Geneviève Hertzog

The fascination for the intangible and the transcendental has been an important theme in art since the end of the 18th century. The exhibition resulting from the collaboration with the Musée d'art moderne et contemporain in Strasbourg shows the developing influence of mystical states of mind and spiritualistic practices on the pictorial arts in Europe from 1780 up to the 1930's. At the same time it is possible to trace the development from the romantic through symbolism up to the avant-garde of the 20th century. Works of well-known artists such as Caspar David Friedrich and Francisco de Goya through Ferdinand Hodler, Piet Mondrian and Wassily Kandinsky up to Max Ernst alternate with the fascinating, rarely seen paintings by artists from Eastern and Northern Europe.

The exhibition "L'Europe des esprits – the magic of the intangible" is dedicated to the history of the intangible, which today takes on a new relevance in a time when meaning is being sought outside the classical religions.

The exhibition is made up of ca. 150 paintings and works on paper by different European artists.

For the exhibition a comprehensive catalogue is being published in French and an accompanying publication in German.

Higher Beings – Sigmar Polke and Paul Klee

26.5. – 7.10.2012

Curator Fabienne Eggelhöfer

For this encounter of two really great artists of the 20th century, the exhibition "Uncanny – Witches, magic and demons in Paul Klee" has been modified in such a way that it can show at the centre a series of major works by the younger "colleague". Sigmar Polke (1941–2010) is regarded as the alchemist amongst the contemporary artists of his generation. Paul Klee's humour and irony find in him a worthy counterpart. They are both linked by a similar distance toward spiritual questions. Their occupation with the occult and spiritual, the intangible and irrational is shown more in their motifs than in any conviction, such as the séances by Polke or the ghost figures

by Klee. The two painters Polke and Klee oppose the cliché of the artist as a magician, treating the intangible phenomena in their works with ironical distanced viewpoints.

Master Klee! Teacher at the Bauhaus

31.7. 2012 – 6.1.2013

Curators Fabienne Eggelhöfer and Marianne Keller

The exhibition documents Paul Klee's teaching activity at the Bauhaus in Weimar and Dessau. As the conclusion of a three-year research project, financed by the Swiss National Fund SNF, Paul Klee's Teaching Notes on Pictorial Creation will be presented at the same time on an online Data Base.

At the Bauhaus, which still today counts as one of the most important teaching and educational institutions for Applied Art and Design in the 20th century, Paul Klee taught between 1921 and 1931 mainly pictorial Form and Design Theory. Thereby he was together with Wassily Kandinsky, who held a course in analytical drawing and a colour seminar, a decisive influence on the theoretical training of the students.

The exhibition focuses on Klee's life, his teaching and his work during this time. It encompasses around 80 paintings and works on paper, ca. 200 pages with his handwritten teaching notes as well as numerous other documentary materials such as photographs and letters.

The realisation of the online data-base was made possible by the Paul-Klee-Foundation of the Civic Community of Berne.

For the exhibition Hatje Cantz is publishing a catalogue and an e-book.

Angels

26. 10. 2012 – 20. 01. 2013

Curator Christine Hopfengart

The exhibition will be seen subsequently in the Museum Folkwang in Essen and at the Kunsthalle Hamburg.

Paul Klee's angels belong to the most popular works of the artist. They appeal not only to art enthusiasts but enjoy great popularity also as poetic companions through life. As winged hybrid beings, half human half heavenly messengers, they are still predominantly based on human existence. They have small weaknesses and blemishes, they are forgetful or ugly, full of cares or playful, so that everyone can see themselves reflected in them.

The Zentrum Paul Klee is attempting to unite all Klee's angels in an exhibition for the first time. This extends from the delicate winged beings of his youthful work to the angel of death in the last years of his life. Over and above, the exhibition incorporates also Klee's "Devils" since Klee's personal philosophy does not recognise the opposites good and evil but the balance of both forces and the relativity of moral concepts.

The exhibition is made up of ca. 90 pictures and works on paper by Paul Klee as well as installations with film, video and photographic works by about 10 film makers and artists.