

**Press Release**

**What do we want to keep?**

**Works from the Collection**

12 February\*–25 April 2021

\* The museum is expected to remain closed until Sunday, 28 February 2021. The exhibition will be open to the public when the museum reopens.

*Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein starts its 2021 exhibition programme with a major collection display featuring numerous works that have never been on show before.*

We associate collecting with an ongoing activity, accumulating things over an extended period of time. This is the only way that a collection can come about. However, this continuous flow of a growing collection consists of many individual decisions which involve answering a variety of questions. “Is this object of interest to me, who else may be interested in it?”, “Is this object meaningful, is it complex enough to retain its importance for a long time to come?”, “How are the aspects of relevance for me rendered in formal terms?”, “Does the object tie in with the context of the existing collection?”. These are questions which need to be answered again and again. Whereas private collections are totally free in defining their collecting activities, public collections have an additional duty of legitimation to meet. Therefore, public museums generally set out a collection policy that defines the key parameters in terms of content on which the museum bases its collecting activities.

The title of this presentation is a reference to a newly acquired work by the RELAX group from Zürich. The piece was made in 2018 for the exhibition at the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich and gave the exhibition its title. The artist group explored the question of what is worthy of preserving and keeping after more than one hundred years of collecting, particularly in view of the sprawling range of graphic arts available for collecting. The same question has a different angle to it in this show, which features various works from the collection that have never been shown before: One consequence of the COVID-19 crisis is that people are once again reflecting more fundamentally on which values are worth preserving for society and its imminent upheaval. The focus is not so much on material values but rather on future attitudes towards life and its different manifestations. Art makes important contributions to dealing with

these questions as it has always focused on the conditions of human life and its different forms.

The aim of this show is to encourage such discussions in different ways by assembling works which deal with human beings, their abilities and conceptions of the world, but also their search for the reasons for their existence and their embeddedness in natural history. This also, however, entails examining the material and societal realities which define our everyday lives so extensively.

A production of Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, curated by Friedemann Malsch.

## **Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein collection policy**

Successor to the State Art Collection of Liechtenstein, the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein has from the outset pursued a special collection policy which lends the institution its unmistakable and widely acknowledged profile. The Museum collects artworks from 1900 to the present, with a strong emphasis on three-dimensional art, sculpture, installations and objects. Formal aspects are of secondary importance, with the focus on peculiarities of content based on the two guiding principles of "rational approaches" and "anthropological methods". The collecting activities concentrate on the whole of Europe and certain aspects of North American art. This limitation to certain boundaries correlates with the capacities and possibilities available to medium-sized museums such as the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein.

## **Artists in the exhibition**

ABSALON, Saâdane Afif, Yuri Albert, Pawel Althamer, Giovanni Anselmo, Maria Anwander, Arman, Thom Barth, Denise Bellon, Joseph Beuys, Alighiero Boetti, Christian Boltanski, George Brecht, Stanley Brouwn, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Tacita Dean, Marcel Duchamp, Luciano Fabro, Stano Filko, General Idea, Jochen Gerz, Ute Klophaus, Julije Knifer, Willem de Kooning, Jannis Kounellis, KwieKulik, Bertrand Lavier, Wilhelm Lehmbruck, Thomas Lehnerer, Mangelos, Fabian Marcaccio, Gordon Matta-Clark, Allan McCollum, Thom Merrick, Mario Merz, Marisa Merz, Matt Mullican, Paul Neagu, Marcel Odenbach, Brian O'Doherty, Trevor Paglen, Giulio Paolini, Steven Parrino, Pino Pascali, Giuseppe Penone, Dan Perjovschi, Dan Peterman, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Emilio Prini, David Reed, RELAX (chiarenza & hauser & co), Pipilotti Rist, Pamela Rosenkranz, Fred Sandback, Richard Serra, Keith Sonnier, André Thomkins, Jean Tinguely, Rosemarie Trockel, Josip Vaništa, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Gilberto Zorio

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