

Press Release

The Whole Palette

Works from the Hilti Art Foundation

17 November 2023 – 27 October 2024

Opening: Thursday, 16 November 2023, 6pm

Press conference: Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 10.30pm

After more than a year of temporary exhibitions, the Hilti Art Foundation once again presents a selection of art exclusively from its own collection. *The Whole Palette* provides an insight into the current status of the collection, with 24 of the 40 works selected being on public view for the first time as part of a Hilti Art Foundation exhibition.

The show features outstanding paintings by renowned artists including Pablo Picasso, Max Beckmann, Ferdinand Hodler, Piet Mondrian and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, along with superb new acquisitions by Edvard Munch, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Max Ernst, Verena Loewensberg, Gerhard Richter and Callum Innes. Other works now joining the collection – including sculpture, collage, photography, drawings and prints by Henri Matisse, Jean Tinguely, Frank Thiel and Carol Wyss – will also be exhibited. Staged on three floors, *The Whole Palette* not only offers an astonishing variety of genres and styles, but also of subjects, materials and colours.

“At best, engaging with works of art should be an uplifting sensory and intellectual, i.e. a transformative experience. Bringing about this transformation in visitors to the exhibitions of the Hilti Art Foundation has always been my ambition and my wish as curator of the shows. Of course, this wish cannot be fulfilled if people are not prepared to engage open-mindedly with works of art and thus to allow this transformation to take place”, as Uwe Wieczorek, curator of the exhibition, observes. *The Whole Palette* is Wieczorek’s last show at the Hilti Art Foundation, having worked here as a curator for more than twenty years, consistently building and expanding the collection.

The representation of the human figure from the end of the 19th to the 20th century is exemplified by the exhibits on the basement floor. The space showcases impressive works by artists including Edvard Munch, Medardo Rosso, Pablo Picasso, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Germaine Richier and Max Beckmann. The focus here is on the question of how to translate physical and psychological human existence into an “image” in a world constantly transformed by science,

industry, technology or even war. The display also shows how Paul Klee or Max Beckmann, for example, processed the aftermath of the First World War in their art.

The first floor is dedicated to the wealth of constructive and concrete art in the 20th century, illustrating the development of European abstraction by example of such pioneers as Jean Arp, Sophie Taeuber or Piet Mondrian. Mondrian's "classical" paintings evolved gradually from the abstraction of natural forms. Testifying to a subtle sense of compositional balance, with their reduced palette and the stringency of the grid of horizontal/vertical lines they crystallise into allegories of a universal order. Order and grid as forms embodying the human mind are also defining features of the works of other artists, including Frank Thiel or Gerhard Richter, who differ, however, in the specific way they approach rules and chance.

The overall impression of the third floor is defined by the mystery of the creation and appearance of artistic forms – a line, a contour, an outline or a three-dimensional body. In the work of Callum Innes, bright lines have the appearance of soaring fireworks. Still lacking definite identity, yet organic in appearance, the representation of forms becomes three-dimensional in the works of Yves Tanguy and Alexander Calder, finally taking on natural human shape in Ferdinand Hodler's paintings. Alberto Giacometti, on the other hand, demonstrates how what is physically visible can defy artistic capture because of its unfathomable complexity.

The Hilti Art Foundation was established in 1998 and comprises two complementary collections that are presented as one to the public. While the Martin Hilti Family Trust focuses on artworks from the period of classical modernism (c. 1880 to 1950), the main theme of the collection of Michael and Caroline Hilti additionally extends up to the present day. Today the collection comprises around 400 important artworks from almost one and a half centuries, that the Hilti Art Foundation has been putting on display to the public since 2015 in changing exhibitions in its own exhibition spaces annexed to Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein.

The Whole Palette is on show at the Hilti Art Foundation until 27 October 2024.

The exhibition is curated by Uwe Wieczorek, curator of the Hilti Art Foundation.

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