

Art as An Integral Part of Life

The Hilti Art Foundation presents the second volume of its collection catalogue.

Vaduz/Liechtenstein – The collection of the Hilti Art Foundation comprises over 250 museum-quality works of art, including paintings, sculptures, reliefs, photographs, light pieces, kinetic works and objects. It ranks among the most renowned private collections in the German-speaking world. For over five years, art lovers from all over the world have enjoyed presentations of the collection in a dedicated building adjoining the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein. These works of art have now become accessible in book form, in two beautifully designed volumes of high quality reproductions, which do justice to the entire spectrum of this first-rate collection of art, ranging from classical modernism to the present day.

The first volume, published in autumn 2019, presents 80 works of Classical Modernism from 1880 to 1950. The explosion of knowledge in science and the humanities coupled with vastly accelerated developments in business, technology and transport led to an entirely new understanding of the world and reality. Artists responded to the challenge through radical experimentation with new forms and means of expression, their art, in some cases, mirroring the dire consequences of war and suffering in the first half of the 20th century.

Volume 1 begins with works by Georges Seurat, Paul Gauguin and Medardo Rosso, in which Impressionism still resonates. It ends circa 1950 with such artists as Alberto Giacometti, Jean Dubuffet, Wols and Willem de Kooning, whose works reflect the two currents of Classical Modernism – figuration and abstraction – and ultimately bring them to a close. In addition to featuring representatives of Cubism, Futurism and Surrealism, this volume includes several works each by Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Max Beckmann and Alberto Giacometti.

Volume two, just recently published, takes up where its companion left off, presenting 120 works ranging from the second half of the 20th century to the present day. This thoughtful selection yields an overall picture, in both content and aesthetics, of the extent and diversity of this collection, which is indebted not only to the sheer

Hilti Art Foundation

boundless production of art since 1950 but also to the wide-ranging interests of the collectors.

Two aspects dominate in the second volume: concrete-constructive art and painterly materiality, represented by such artists as Max Bill, Verena Loewensberg, Gottfried Honegger, Alexander Calder, Keith Sonnier, Imi Knoebel, Gotthard Graubner, Sean Scully, Hanns Kunitzberger and Callum Innes. The volume also includes works by Josef Albers, Lucio Fontana, Jan Schoonhoven, Günter Fruhtrunk, François Morellet, Yves Klein, Piero Manzoni, Günter Uecker, Klaus Staudt and Gerhard von Graevenitz. The non-figuration that underlies the universe of these artists stands in contrast to the real visible world, seen in Thomas Struth's photographs of nature, civilisation and technology.

In his preface, Michael Hilti, President of the Foundation, rewards the wish to understand how a private collection of this kind comes about. His parents had already taken pleasure in acquiring works of art simply "because they loved living with art". After his father died, the heirs chose not to divide the works among themselves but rather to benefit from their father's legacy and use them as the basis of a family collection. The development of the collection, a long-term project, commenced with the founding of the Hilti Art Foundation in 1998. Since then, the personal pleasure provided by such a collection has been enhanced by the conviction that art can draw attention to the best qualities of society and the creative potential of those who are part of it.

The impressive catalogue is ambrosia for all art lovers – and a beautiful gift, as a "voucher" for visiting the exhibition together.

Celebrating the five-year anniversary, the fifth exhibition will run until 11 October 2020. "Epidermis – Conditio humana – Kosmos" showcases 33 works of art that span the epochs.

August 2020

Catalogue

Hilti Art Foundation. The Collection.

Volume 1 – Art of Classical Modernism 1880–1950

Editor: Hilti Art Foundation
Contributors: A. Schneider, U. Wieczorek
Publisher: Hirmer, Munich
Publication: 235 pages, c. 90 colour plates
Format: 23.5 x 30 cm
Language: available in German and English
Price, circa: CHF 54.90 / EUR 45.–

Hilti Art Foundation. The Collection.

Volume 2 – Art from 1950 to the Present Day

Editor: Hilti Art Foundation
Contributors: J. Ryff, A. Schneider, U. Wieczorek
Publisher: Hirmer, München
Publication: 355 pages, c. 180 colour plates
Format: 23.5 x 30 cm
Language: available in German and English
Price, circa: CHF 54.90 / EUR 45.–

Available through the Museum Shop of the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein and in bookstores.

Contributors

Dr. Angela Schneider (Volumes 1 + 2)

Studied art history, classical archaeology and history at the University of Munich. Custodian at the National Gallery in Berlin from 1973 to 1999 and deputy director until 2008. Has planned and mounted numerous exhibitions of 20th-century international art.

Dr. Uwe Wieczorek (Volumes 1 + 2)

Studied art history, classical archaeology and the history of books. Worked for the Berlin State Museums from 1987 to 1992. Director of The Collections of the Prince of Liechtenstein from 1992 to 2003. Since 2003, curator of the Hilti Art Foundation. Has planned and mounted exhibitions on art from the Renaissance to the 21st century.

Dr. Julia Ryff (Volume 2)

Studied art history, Byzantine art and French literature. 2009 bis 2011 DFG project, Grosse Deutsche Kunstausstellung, Munich. 2014 to 2018 worked at Christie's, Zurich. Since 2019, specialist for Impressionism and Classical Modernism at Bonhams, London.

Hilti Art Foundation

Opening hours:

Hilti Art Foundation in the KUNSTMUSEUM LIECHTENSTEIN
Städtle 32, 9490 Vaduz, Fürstentum Liechtenstein
Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm
Thursday 10 am – 8 pm
Closed on Monday

For more information, see Instagram, Facebook and our website

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Tickets

CHF 15.– (reduced price CHF 10.–)

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Press contact:

Daniela Bühe, Hilti Art Foundation
T: +494022658301, media@hiltiartfoundation.li

Franziska Hilbe, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein
T: +4232350317, franziska.hilbe@kunstmuseum.li

Hilti Art Foundation im KUNSTMUSEUM LIECHTENSTEIN
Städtle 32 | 9490 Vaduz | Fürstentum Liechtenstein
www.hiltiartfoundation.li | www.kunstmuseum.li | www.smallcountrygreatart.li