

Press Release

Zurich, 13 December 2007

Kunsthhaus Zürich publishes a new full catalogue of its collection of paintings and sculptures

Kunsthhaus Zürich announces the publication of the first fully illustrated catalogue of its collection of almost 4,000 paintings and sculptures. In addition to this catalogue, the Kunsthhaus is also presenting to the public a richly illustrated, full-colour volume with commentaries on a selection of the most important works in its holdings.

The full catalogue of the collection of paintings and sculptures – presented now by the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft and which was five years in the making – comprises a visual record of a large part of the cultural heritage of the Swiss nation as a whole and of Zurich in particular.

A REFERENCE WORK FOR PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES

The introduction to the newly published catalogue of paintings and sculptures traces the history of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft. For the first time – in this 740-page, German-language reference work – all the paintings and sculptures are illustrated, grouped according to art-historical epochs and with full details of techniques and provenance. Where appropriate there are suggestions for further reading, explanations regarding the content of the work and brief, factual art-historical commentaries. A considerable proportion of the catalogue is devoted to painting in Zurich since the sixteenth century and to Swiss art in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

MASTERPIECES

The main catalogue is accompanied by a coloured, fully illustrated selection of outstanding works in the Kunsthhaus, published in separate German, French and English editions. Around half of the works on permanent display in the Kunsthhaus are illustrated in the volume 'Masterpieces' – works of astounding quality that are now seen to such advantage since the refurbishment of the museum in 2005.

The visitor to the collection and the reader of this new publication alike find themselves in the presence of a museum collection wherein much of European art is reflected in fine, characteristic works – ranging from fascinating late-Gothic panels and paintings from the Golden Age of Netherlandish art to examples of Italian Baroque and the Venetian settecento. Famous paintings and eccentric surprises enrich the wide spectrum of works by the great Swiss masters – paintings by Fuseli, Böcklin, Hodler, Segantini, Valotton, sculptures

by Alberto Giacometti. Outstanding paintings by leading artists – centred around the Claude Monet ensemble – transport the viewer into the colourful world of Impressionism and Postimpressionism. Next to paintings by Edvard Munch, the collection also contains important works by Oskar Kokoschka, Max Beckmann and Lovis Corinth. Last but not least, 'Masterpieces' also presents a high-quality cross-section of Classical Modernist works (Picasso, Matisse, Chagall), American art after the Second World War, Pop Art and more recent works up to the present day; here the spotlight turns on Cy Twombly, Joseph Beuys, Francis Bacon, Georg Baselitz and Fischli/Weiss.

Thanks to the very generous support of the Schwyzer-Stiftung, connoisseurs, scholars, collectors and archivists now have an important new reference work at their disposal. The last, short catalogue – in softback, just eighty-seven pages long – was published in 1958. Since then new acquisitions have been detailed in the relevant annual reports and only selectively illustrated. With the publication of an illustrated volume of masterpieces from the Kunsthaus collection (in separate German, French and English editions), the hope is that this highly readable work will soon grace the shelves of a wide public. The production costs, including the services of the scholars and researchers who worked on this project under the guidance of the Keeper of the Collection, Christian Klemm, amounted to over a million Swiss francs.

Both volumes have already been published in German by Hatje Cantz Publishers; 'Masterpieces' will be issued in English and in French in January 2008. All these publications will be available through booksellers, in the museum shop in Kunsthaus Zürich and online at www.kunsthhaus.ch/shop.

Kunsthaus Zürich. 'Katalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen', 740 pages, over 3,800 illustrations, b/w, 24 x 29 cm, linen with dust jacket
Museum price: CHF 148.-/in bookshops ca. CHF 172.-, ISBN 978-3-7757-1143-2

Kunsthaus Zürich. 'Masterpieces', 332 pages, 360 colour illustrations, 24 x 29 cm, hardback with dust jacket.
Museum price CHF 58.-/in bookshops ca. CHF 69.-, ISBN 978-3-7757-1144-9

Special price for both publications purchased together in the Kunsthaus Shop: CHF 185.-. Discount on all publications available to Members of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft.

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