

Press release
Zurich, 9 February 2010

Kunsthhaus Zürich shows 'Van Gogh, Cézanne, Monet – The Bührle Collection'

From 12 February to 16 May 2010, the Kunsthhaus Zürich will host one of the world's most important private collections – the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection. The collection's main focus is on French Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, including other 19th-century French painters. Since it fell victim to a robbery in 2008, the collection's museum in Zürich has been accessible only with restrictions. For the Kunsthhaus Zürich, whose success in the past century has been closely intertwined with private collectors and sponsors, the show constitutes a kind of dress rehearsal, since the about 180 paintings and sculptures in the current exhibition are intended to take up their permanent place in the Kunsthhaus extension when it opens in 2015.

The Zurich-based industrialist Emil Bührle (1890–1956), the source of some of the Kunsthhaus Zürich's most valuable donations, compiled his art collection mostly in the aftermath of the Second World War. In addition to its Impressionist paintings, the Bührle Collection holds works by members of the Nabis group, the Fauves, the Cubists and other exponents of the French avant-garde after 1900. Older pieces include examples of the Dutch Golden Age and Venetian Old Masters from the 16th to 18th centuries, as well as a group of Gothic wooden sculptures. World-renowned works of art such as van Gogh's 'The Sower', Renoir's 'Little Irene', Monet's 'Poppies near Vétheuil', Cézanne's 'Boy in the Red Vest' and Picasso's 'Italian Woman' are also to be found in the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection. In addition, the collection holds major works by artists such as Frans Hals, Canaletto, Ingres, Delacroix, Manet, Degas, Gauguin, Signac, Vlaminck and Braque. The collection's main topic is the role played by a burgeoning artistic freedom in the development of modern art. Its importance is a function of the stringent criteria applied by Bührle when making his selection of masterpieces.

MILESTONES OF ART HISTORY ON HEIMPLATZ

For a limited time only, visitors both domestic and foreign, together with the people of Zurich, will have the opportunity to re-discover this valuable private collection, and to form their own opinions about its planned relocation to David Chipperfield's projected Kunsthhaus extension on Heimplatz (to open in 2015). The combination of the Bührle Foundation with the museum's own collection will make the Kunsthhaus Zürich Europe's leading centre for French Impressionism outside of Paris.

'Van Gogh, Cézanne, Monet', an exhibition mounted in the Kunsthaus Zürich's generously proportioned great hall (1300 m²), will offer visitors a taste of things to come. Emil Bührle himself presented the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft with the hall, which has been in use since 1958 and will continue to serve for the main exhibitions once the extension has been completed. It was here in June of 1958 that the Bührle Collection had its début, unfortunately without its late founder. In 1960 the collector's family created a foundation with some 200 pictures and sculptures, and installed the works in a private museum in Zurich that was open to the general public. Following the notorious armed robbery of 10 February 2008, in which four key pieces were taken, the collection has seen its public access curtailed. Two of the pictures stolen – van Gogh's 'Blossoming Chestnut Branches' and Monet's 'Poppies near Vétheuil' – have since been recovered, and are part of the Kunsthaus presentation. As for Cézanne's 'Boy in the Red Vest', however, and a work by Degas also purloined, they remain at large.

DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION ON THE COLLECTOR AND HIS WORKS OF ART

Lukas Gloor and Christoph Becker, co-curators of the exhibition, have integrated two of Monet's monumental water lily paintings, presented by Bührle to the Kunsthaus, into the 155 paintings and 16 sculptures on show.

A detailed illustrated biography of Bührle, who acquired most of the pieces in his collection between 1951 and 1956, provides information about his life and role in Swiss history, especially during the Second World War. The documentation also examines the growth of his collection as well as its position in the international reception of French Modernism, and touches on current issues in the study of provenance. Original documents from the archive of the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection are displayed in support of the founder's key statements, document acquisitions, and shed light on the collector's active involvement with the development of the Kunsthaus Zürich. The Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft is committed to turning the traditionally close connections with the Bührle Foundation into a permanent relationship, and provides a glimpse of the attractions which Zürich might offer to the art world as of 2015.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

The presentation of the Bührle Collection, one of the world's leading private collections of European painting, is to be accompanied and enhanced by a wide range of guided tours and discussions. Please see www.kunsthaus.ch for individual event topics and dates.

An audioguide (in English, German and French) to 25 masterpieces is included in the price of admission, and offers visitors explanations of each work's position in

art history as well as background information on Emil Bührle and the evolution of his collection. A three-volume general catalogue (in English and German, 3 volumes CHF 120.-, 1 volume CHF 45.-) as well as an abridged guide to the foundation (in English, German and French, 30 pages, 31 images, CHF 15.-) are on offer at the Kunsthaus shop.

GENERAL INFORMATION / GUIDED TOURS / ADVANCE SALES

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich, www.kunsthhaus.ch

Opening hours Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m., closed on Mondays. Easter 1–5 April and Ascension 12–13 May 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Admission CHF 18.- / concessions CHF 12.-. CHF 14.- per head for groups of 20 or more.

Guided tour in English: Saturday, 20 March, 11 a.m.

Private guided tours can be arranged on +41 (0)44 253 84 84 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–12 noon).

Advance sales/arrival by train Switzerland: RailAway/SBB Kombi-Ticket, with 10% reduction on rail travel and entrance to the exhibition, at SBB stations and by phoning Rail Service: 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19 per min.). Magasins Fnac, tel. +33 1 4157 3212, www.fnac.ch. France: Magasins Fnac, Carrefour, tel. 0892 684 694 (EUR 0.34 per min.), www.fnac.com. Belgium: Magasins Fnac, tel. 0 900 00 600 (EUR 0.45 per min.) www.fnac.be. Hotels and accommodation/food and drink: Zürich Tourism, www.zuerich.com.

NOTE TO MEDIA

See the download area at www.kunsthhaus.ch for this press release including information about the many events accompanying the show, press visuals, background information on provenance and a biography of Emil Georg Bührle.

Press contact:

Kunsthaus Zürich, Björn Quellenberg, Head of Press and Communications

Bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthhaus.ch

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 11

APPENDIX TO PRESS RELEASE OF FEBRUARY 2010

**Events accompanying 'Van Gogh, Cézanne, Monet – The Bührle Collection'
Kunsthau Zürich, 12 February to 16 May 2010 (in German language)**

GUIDED TOURS THROUGH 400 YEARS OF ART HISTORY

Tuesdays 12.15 p.m., Wednesdays 6.30 p.m. and Fridays 3 p.m.

The Bührle Collection:

'Stepping Stone to Modernism – from van Gogh, Cézanne and Gauguin to Vlaminck, Braque and Picasso': 16.2./5.3./16.3./23.3./31.3./9.4./14.4./7.5.

'Older European Art – from Rubens, Hals and Guardi to Delacroix, Manet and Monet': 19.2./2.3./19.3./30.3./7.4./20.4./28.4./14.5.

'With Best Regards – Masterpieces and Their Provenance': 26.2./10.3./16.4./5.5.

'Mediaeval Sculpture': 17.3./13.4.

'Famous Dutchmen: from Cuyp to van Gogh': 3.3./18.4.

'Rembrandt, Only Different – Attributions and Repudiations of Old Masters': 7.3./21.4.

'Goose-Stepping Styles? On Progress in Art': 24.2./11.5.

'Venice – from Canaletto to Signac': 23.2./4.5.

'Ecole de Paris – French Painting as Marketing Strategy': 12.2./6.4.

'Picasso and the Avant-Garde': 17.2./24.3.

Subject to change

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF THE KUNSTHAUS EXTENSION

On Saturday, 6 March from 2.30 to 3.30 p.m., a panel will discuss museum policy issues in the context of public and private interests. The panel will comprise Christoph Becker, Kunsthau Zürich Director and member of the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection board, Bernhard Mendes Bürgi, Director of the Basel Art Museum, Matthias Frehner, Director of the Bern Art Museum, Lukas Gloor, Director of the E.G. Bührle Collection, and Thomas Held, member of the support committee for the Kunsthau Zürich extension and Director of Avenir Suisse, as well as Jean-Pierre Hoby, Head of Culture at the Zürich Mayor's Office.

The discussion will address goals and basic conditions of the Kunsthau Zürich extension, the influence of private patrons, and the actual nature of the agreement between the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft and the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection laying out the ground rules for the future joint exhibition on Heimplatz.

SPECIALISTS DISCUSS TWO MUTUALLY COMPLEMENTARY COLLECTIONS

'Masters United: the E.G. Bührle and Kunsthaus Zürich Collections as of 2015', featuring Lukas Gloor, Director of the E.G. Bührle Collection, and Christoph Becker, Director of the Kunsthaus Zürich, on 17 April at 3 p.m.

All dates subject to change. For updated and supplementary information as of December please see the exhibitions and online agenda pages of www.kunsthhaus.ch.

NOTE TO MEDIA

See download area at www.kunsthhaus.ch for the press release, an overview of events as well as press visuals, background information on provenance and a biography of the collector, E.G. Bührle.

Press contact:

Kunsthaus Zürich, Björn Quellenberg, Head of Press and Communications

bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthhaus.ch

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