

Media release
Zurich, 27 March 2024

Kunsthaus Zürich invites Miriam Cahn, Thomas Hirschhorn, Yves Demuth, Irma Frei and others to discuss the new exhibition of the Bührle Collection

On 3 November 2023, the Kunsthaus Zürich inaugurated a new presentation entitled 'A Future for the Past. The Bührle Collection: Art, Context, War and Conflict'. Following multi-sensory performances by Alexis Blake on three evenings in February, which examined mourning and protest as ways of coming to terms with the past, the Kunsthaus is now hosting artist talks, debates and a book launch.

The events in April and May aim to encourage broader participation in the current debate that the Kunsthaus intensified with its new presentation of the Bührle Collection in autumn 2023. The series is moderated by journalist Antje Stahl. Ann Demeester, Director of the Kunsthaus, will open each event with some words of welcome.

4 April

FILM SCREENING AND TALK WITH IRMA FREI AND YVES DEMUTH

The film portraits recorded by Peter Reichenbach in the resonance space of the current exhibition have been compiled into an 85-minute film entitled 'Art, Context, War and Complicity'. In it, figures from the worlds of politics, research and art, and others with personal backgrounds, have their say on the collection put together by Emil Bührle. They explain how they expect art museums to handle a collection of this kind, and how they view Switzerland's actions in the Second World War, together with the consequences that flow from them to this day. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion involving Irma Frei (former forced labourer in one of Bührle's textile factories) and Yves Demuth (author of 'Schweizer Zwangsarbeiterinnen. Eine unerzählte Geschichte der Nachkriegszeit' [Switzerland's female forced labourers. An untold story of the post-war period], 2023).

When and where? 4 April, screening 5 p.m.–6.30 p.m., panel discussion 7 p.m.–8 p.m. Banquet hall, Chipperfield building, Heimplatz 5. Admission free. In German.

25 April

ARTISTIC STANCES. ARTIST TALK WITH MIRIAM CAHN

The Swiss artist Miriam Cahn, known for her idiosyncratic and expressive figurative work and one of the most important representatives of recent Swiss art, talks to Antje Stahl about the plan to buy back her works from the Kunsthaus Collection and what to do with the collection of Emil Bührle.

When and where? 25 April, 6 p.m. Banquet hall, Chipperfield building, Heimplatz 5. Duration approx. 60 minutes. Admission free. In German.

2 May

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH THOMAS HIRSCHHORN, DR ANITA HALDEMANN, PROF. ANGELI SACHS AND RESEARCHERS

'The culture of remembrance in art museums: forms, formats, affects and emotions' is the title of a panel discussion with Dr Anita Haldemann (Head of Art and Research and Director ad interim of the Kunstmuseum Basel), Thomas Hirschhorn (artist) and Prof. Angeli Sachs (art historian and member of the advisory panel on the new presentation of the Bührle Collection).

When and where? 2 May, 6 p.m. Banquet hall, Chipperfield building, Heimplatz 5. Duration approx. 90 minutes. Admission free. In German.

16 May

MUSEUMS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DR NIKOLA DOLL AND OTHERS

Dr Nikola Doll, art historian and Head of Provenance Research at the Kunstmuseum Bern, is publishing a new book entitled: 'Museen in der Verantwortung. Positionen im Umgang mit Raubkunst' (Museums and their Responsibility. Approaches to Looted Art). This is the topic of the panel discussion, which will also feature historian and editor Dr Stefanie Mahrer along with lawyer Dr Marcel Brühlhart. Followed by a drinks reception.

When and where? 16 May, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Banquet hall, Chipperfield building, Heimplatz 5. Admission free. In German.

Details about the events at www.kunsthau.ch/en/besuch-planen/programm.

PREVIEW OF PHASE 3 OF THE CURRENT EXHIBITION

This interactive fringe programme is the second phase in the new presentation of the Bührle Collection. After it, the Kunsthaus will begin preparations for phase 3, in which the exhibition will respond to the final report by Prof. Raphael Gross. Gross, a historian and President of the Deutsches Historisches Museum Foundation, was appointed by the City and Canton of Zurich and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft in May 2023 to evaluate the research carried out to date into the provenance of the Bührle Collection. He was named on the recommendation of Prof. Felix Uhlmann, following the outcome of a Round Table. Raphael Gross is

conducting the review of the existing provenance research in conjunction with a team that he has assembled. Its final report is expected to be published at the end of June 2024. The Kunsthaus will carefully consider its new findings, interpret them and incorporate them for educational purposes into the presentation 'A Future for the Past. Art, Context, War and Conflict' (phase 3).

Kunsthaus Director Ann Demeester welcomes the fact that tens of thousands of visitors have already seen the exhibition, are making use of the interactive offering, and appreciate the fringe programme.

'Because of the way it came into being, the collection of Emil Bührle is a fascinating subject for a dialogue involving all of society. I am delighted that our visitors are so engaged and willing to take part in the debate. The feedback from discussions, as well as comments and survey results, clearly indicates that people want to see the artworks in the Bührle Collection; but they also want to understand the context and actively explore it. That's exactly what we set out to achieve with the various formats: to spark a debate in which many voices can contribute to understanding the past of the Bührle Collection.'

Visitors to the exhibition website buehrle.kunsthhaus.ch can learn more about the contents of the exhibition and also take part in the survey.

INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA

Media releases and images to download can be found at www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/medien-bereich/media-corner.

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