

PREVIEW

THE SUMMER AND AUTUMN EXHIBITION PROGRAM

The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt will be presenting two exhibition highlights in the second half of the year 2018: *King of the Animals: Wilhelm Kuhnert and the Image of Africa* (October 25, 2018–January 27, 2019) and *Wilderness* (November 1, 2018–February 3, 2019).

Wilhelm Kuhnert shaped the concept of Africa in both Europe and the United States more than any other artist of his time did. *King of the Animals: Wilhelm Kuhnert and the Image of Africa* is the first comprehensive retrospective dedicated to the artist's life and work. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, he was one of the first European artists who visited the German colonies of East Africa, which were still largely unexplored at the time. Kuhnert adopted an almost scientific approach while painting and recording the characteristics of the animals and the landscape in which they lived with great precision. Although Wilhelm Kuhnert remains one of the most frequently collected academic painters to this day, his work has remained largely unknown to the broader public. Kuhnert's work is seen not only as a mirror of the history of art and natural science, but also against the background of the history of colonialism.

At about the same time, the Schirn will be staging a comprehensive thematic exhibition focusing on the recurring fascination with wilderness, which comprises about one hundred major works by such artists as Julian Charrière, Marcus Coates, Tacita Dean, Mark Dion, Jean Dubuffet, Max Ernst, Asger Jorn, Joachim Koester, Ana Mendieta, Georgia O'Keeffe, Gerhard Richter, Henri Rousseau, or Carleton E. Watkins. Since the beginning of modernism artists have repeatedly been drawn to that which is wild, untamed, uncultivated. The exhibition *Wilderness* unites paintings, photographs, videos, sculptures, and installations that explore the multitude of different links between wilderness and art from 1900 to the present. With the term 'wilderness', a cultural concept is put up for discussion that has always also served as a projection surface for anything that was different and foreign, for the longing fantasies aimed beyond the boundaries of a supposedly civilized world. In today's 'Anthropocene', the utopia of a natural state remote from culture and human influence seems anachronistic. The examination of traditional images and fictions of wilderness, however, proves to be more alive than ever before.

Already in August the award-winning video and installation artist Neïl Beloufa will be staging a completely new work: *Global Agreement* (August 23–October 28, 2018). The film deals with the human body as well as its discursive and political meaning and testifies to Beloufa's recent interest in the military, in weapons, fitness, beauty, the cult of the body, and self-presentation in the social media. The exhibition will be opened with the Schirn's annual summer party on August 22, 2018. With the opening the Schirn will be partially accessible again despite current renovation measures of the exhibition spaces. With the Minischirn Color Lab on Tour, the Schirn Open Air Cinema (August 15–18, 2018), the Schirn Summer Hangouts (August 29 and September 5, 2018), and the Double Feature film series (June 25, July 30, and August 27, 2018), the Schirn offers a varied educational program and special events in preparation of its autumn exhibition highlights. The admission is free of charge for the exhibition *Neïl Beloufa: Global Agreement*, the Schirn Summer Hangouts, the Open Air Cinema, and the Double Feature events.

An intervention by the contemporary artist Maria Loboda in the Schirn Rotunda (November 16, 2018–February 10, 2019) will complete this year's exhibition program.

SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

THE SCHIRN'S SUMMER AND AUTUMN EXHIBITION PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

NEİL BELOUFA. GLOBAL AGREEMENT AUGUST 23–OCTOBER 28, 2018

The award-winning video and installation artist Neïl Beloufa will be realising a unique project by transforming the Schirn into a stage. He will create sculptural stages in various spaces outside the Schirn's classic exhibition areas in which he will screen his new film *Global Agreement*. This work deals with the human body as well as its discursive and political meaning and testifies to Beloufa's recent interest in the military, in weapons, fitness, beauty, the cult of the body, and forms of self-presentation in the social media. The artist has conducted interviews with people in the respective internet communities and chatrooms where they exchange their experiences and views. Film constitutes the focus and point of departure in Beloufa's oeuvre. The artist also uses the parameters of its production such as setting, lighting, editing, and perspective for the development of his pictures, sculptures, and installations. These installations and spaces serve as means of expression for the story of the film—as media in and on which the respective narrative is depicted. Fiction and reality are fused in Beloufa's filmic narratives. Again and again, Beloufa explores art and his own production as an artist in his work. His works are collaborative, aimed at eliminating the author's singular position and perspective. Neïl Beloufa (b. in Paris in 1985) lives and works in Paris. He studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts and the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris as well as at the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia (USA), the Cooper Union, New York, a.o. His works have been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including the K11 in Shanghai, the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the ICA – Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, and the Venice Biennial. He was honoured with numerous awards such as the Meurice Prize for Contemporary Art 2013, the Audi Talent Awards 2011, and the Agnès B. Studio Collector Award 2010.

CURATOR Matthias Ulrich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

KING OF THE ANIMALS. WILHELM KUHNERT AND THE IMAGE OF AFRICA OCTOBER 25, 2018–JANUARY 27, 2019

Wilhelm Kuhnert (1865–1926) shaped the concept of Africa in both Europe and the United States more than any other artist of his time. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, he was one of the first European artists to travel through the German colonies of East Africa, which were still largely unexplored at the time. Often created under difficult conditions on this journey, the sketches of the animal and plant world later served as a basis for the monumental paintings he produced in his Berlin studio after his return. The works were exhibited and sold internationally with enormous success. Kuhnert adopted an almost scientific approach while painting and recording the characteristics of the animals and the landscape in which they lived with great precision. It is not surprising that his animal pictures were published in zoological books like *Brehms Tierleben (Brehm's Life of Animals)* as well as in publications by Wilhelm Haacke, the director of Frankfurt Zoo, and in the form of wall charts for school classrooms; his works even appeared on the wrappers of Stollwerck chocolate. Although Wilhelm Kuhnert remains one of the most frequently collected academic painters to this day, his work has remained largely unknown to the broader public. The Schirn presents the first comprehensive retrospective on the artist's life and work. The exhibition combines studies and paintings from European and American museums, private collections, and Kuhnert's estate with numerous prints and commercial graphics and publications by the artist. It represents a wide-ranging rediscovery of one of the most unusual artist personalities of the early twentieth century. Kuhnert's work is seen not only as a mirror of the history of art and natural science, but also against the background of the history of colonialism.

CURATORS Dr. Philipp Demandt and Dr. Ilka Voermann, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY** Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain

SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

WILDERNESS

NOVEMBER 1, 2018–FEBRUARY 3, 2019

In times in which the blank spaces on the world map have largely disappeared and an ‘untouched natural state’ virtually only exists in the form of areas designated as nature reserves, ‘wilderness’ is returning in art. The search for the last open places, expedition as an artistic medium, and visions of a posthuman world characterize the works of many contemporary artists alongside the renegotiation of the relationship between individual and beast. The Schirn dedicates an extensive thematic exhibition to this recurring fascination and presents around one hundred important works from artists such as Julian Charrière, Marcus Coates, Tacita Dean, Mark Dion, Jean Dubuffet, Max Ernst, Asger Jorn, Joachim Koester, Ana Mendieta, Georgia O’Keeffe, Gerhard Richter, Henri Rousseau, and Carleton E. Watkins. Since the beginning of modernism artists have repeatedly been drawn to that which is wild, untamed, uncultivated. The exhibition unites paintings, photographs, videos, sculptures, and installations that explore the multitude of different links between wilderness and art from 1900 to the present. With ‘wilderness’ a cultural concept is put up for discussion that has always also served as a projection surface for anything that was different and foreign, for longing fantasies aimed beyond the boundaries of the supposed civilization. In today’s ‘Anthropocene’, the utopia of a natural state remote from culture and human influence seems anachronistic. The examination of traditional images and fictions of wilderness seems more alive than ever before.

CURATOR Esther Schlicht, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY** Dr. Marschner Stiftung and Verein der Freunde der Schirn Kunsthalle e. V.

MARIA LOBODA

NOVEMBER 16, 2018–FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Trees arranged in military formation, a binary code of napkin rings, or bouquets of talking flowers: Maria Loboda’s sculptures and installations are mysterious and full of secrets. Her encoded messages reveal themselves only at second glance. The artist transfers long-forgotten knowledge into the immediate present with her ready-made objects and installations in space. Like an archaeologist, she digs through cultural history to find it, studying archaic impressions and supposed truths about the order of the world. Loboda will be developing new works for the Schirn and presenting them in the freely accessible Rotunda. She explores the antagonism between form and content, underlining the poetic effect of her sculptures and spatial installations with sober aesthetics and an economy of means. Maria Loboda (born in 1979) studied under Mark Leckey at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main from 2003 until 2008. Her works have already been presented worldwide in group and solo exhibitions such as at the Kunsthalle Basel, the IAC – Institut d’art contemporain in Villeurbanne, The Power Plant in Toronto, the Kunstverein Braunschweig, and the Kunstverein Bielefeld, as well as at the Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid. Loboda also participated in documenta 13.

CURATOR Matthias Ulrich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt **THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY** SCHIRN ZEITGENOSSEN

THE SCHIRN’S SUMMER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS AT A GLANCE

THE MINISCHIRN COLOUR LAB ON TOUR

The Minischirn Colour Lab goes on tour. The popular Minischirn workshop offer will be brought directly to educational institutions for the first time from June 1, 2018. Nursery and primary schools, after-school care centres, and care facilities at all-day schools can book different thematic workshops of the Minischirn Colour Lab. The Minischirn’s educational team will visit interested institutions with the colour lab’s complete equipment. The concept of the program is based on the team’s practical experiences from the work with children groups in the Minischirn and was developed for children between the age of three and primary school age. For further information see www.schirn.de/minischirntonour.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MINISCHIRN SUPPORTED BY Dr. Marschner Stiftung and Stadt Frankfurt **PROGRAM 2018 SUPPORTED BY** Willy Robert Pitzer Stiftung and Doris-Haag-Stiftung

SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

SCHIRN OPEN AIR CINEMA

This year's Open Air Cinema is completely committed to the autumn exhibition highlights at the Schirn, to *King of the Animals* and *Wilderness*: on August 15 the Schirn presents the film *Grizzly Man* (2005, 104 min.) directed by Werner Herzog, on August 16 Jan Zabeil's *Der Fluss war einst ein Mensch* (2011, 83 min.), on August 17 Nicolette Krebitz's *Wild*, and on August 18 artists films on the subject of wilderness. All films will be screened in the original language (with German subtitles) and start at 9:30 p.m. The Badias team will provide cold refreshments and a delicious barbecue.

SCHIRN SUMMER HANGOUTS

When the summer slowly draws to a close, the Schirn welcomes for its Summer Hangouts on the stairs in front of the Schirn with laid-back live music. The program starts at 6:00 p.m. and features PEREL on August 22 for the Schirn Summer Party, *EASTER* on August 29 and *NEWMEN* on September 5, 2018. The Badias team will serve kiosk-style meals and drinks. The exhibition *Neil Beloufa: Global Agreement* will be open until 10 p.m.

DOUBLE FEATURE

The Schirn's Double Feature series presents the artists Pauline Curnier Jardin on June 25, Christoph Keller on July 30, and Paul Kuimet on August 27, 2018, each event starting at 7:30 p.m. For more than five years, the Schirn has served as a forum for national and international filmmakers and video artists. Under the heading "Double Feature", they present a work from their own oeuvre, followed by their favorite film. On the last Monday of every month and in conversation with the curators Katharina Dohm, Matthias Ulrich and guest curators, the invited artists provide extensive insight into their creative work, especially into their interest in film.

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RENOVATION OF THE SCHIRN

The exhibition spaces of the Schirn (1,600 m²) will be renovated from June to September 2018. Associated measures include the renewal of the air-conditioning system, the parquet flooring in all exhibition spaces, and the electrical wiring, as well as the installation of radio amplifiers for the fire service. To ensure a rapid implementation of these measures, a short-time closure of the Schirn (including the Minischirn) from the beginning of June to mid-August is necessary. The Schirn will be partially accessible again with the presentation of the exhibition *Neil Beloufa: Global Agreement* (August 23–October 28, 2018). The popular Minischirn, the permanent games and learning circuit for children, will also be accessible again. All renovation measures will be completed in September 2018.

BUILDER Kulturamt der Stadt Frankfurt am Main

SOCIAL MEDIA The Schirn communicates in the social web on **FACEBOOK**, **TWITTER**, **YOUTUBE**, **INSTAGRAM**, **PINTEREST**, **SNAPCHAT**, **SCHIRN MAGAZIN** www.schirn-mag.com

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