

PRESS RELEASE

SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

The Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt was officially opened on February 28, 1986. Since then, the Schirn has presented more than 220 exhibitions on roughly 2,000 m² of floor space – and welcomed over eight million visitors. The Schirn is not only one of the most prestigious and internationally recognized art institutions in Europe, but also a constant in the cultural life of the city of Frankfurt – a place of encounter where interested citizens, patrons and partners, young and established artists, dedicated friends and people from all over the world come together.

The Schirn program focuses on themes, discourses and trends of relevance to art and cultural history from a contemporary perspective. Its goal is to introduce new points of view and break away from traditional modes of reception. The exhibitions are devoted in equal measure to contemporary artistic positions and the art of the modern era. The Schirn regards itself as a place of discovery and a seismograph designed to register explosive developments in visual art. It also offers a distinctive range of current and focused educational and communicative activities for all age groups – including the permanent games and learning circuit, the MINISCHIRN and the Digital, a digital offer for visitors preparing to view an exhibition. In recent years, the Schirn has also continued to build upon its role as a pioneer in the field of integrated online communication through numerous progressive applications and projects like the relaunch of the website as a digital companion – before, during, and after visiting an exhibition – or the free WiFi in all rooms of the Schirn. Besides the website the *Schirn Magazine* with its numerous articles and features has established itself as an important online medium for the contemporary art and culture scene over the years.

With its programmatic emphasis on art from the 19th century to the present, the Schirn has presented a number of major survey exhibitions, focused topical exhibitions and retrospectives over the years – on the radical turn-of-the-century Austrian art, on pioneering artistic positions in Expressionism and Dadaism and on Surrealist object art from Salvador Dalí to Man Ray of the turn of the century, to cite only a few examples. In “Women Impressionists” it offered the first look at the female representatives of the movement; in “Esprit Montmartre” it opened a window to the world of Paris bohemians; in “German Pop” it highlighted the surprising aspects of German Pop Art; and has gained a great success with 190,120 visitors in the exhibition “Magritte. The Treachery of Images”. Themes of relevance to social and cultural history have been illuminated, such as “Shopping – A Century of Art and Consumer Culture”, “Privacy”, the visual art of the Stalin era or the New Romanticism in contemporary art. Other exhibitions revealed the influences of Charles Darwin’s theories on the art of the 19th and 20th centuries, the astounding causal relationships between artists of the modern period and the self-appointed “prophets” of the age and analyzed with “Splendor and Misery in the Weimar Republic” the German art from 1918 to 1933.

The concept developed by the Schirn also encompasses large-scale solo exhibitions devoted to specific aspects of the oeuvres of individual artists, including Carsten Nicolai, Odilon Redon, Edward Kienholz und Nancy Reddin-Kienholz, Haris Epaminonda, Edvard Munch, Jeff Koons, Gustave Courbet, Yoko Ono, Théodore Géricault, Philip Guston, Helene Schjerfbeck, Ulay, Alberto Giacometti and Bruce Nauman, Richard Gerstl or Peter Saul. Jan De Cock, Jonathan Meese, John Bock, Mike Bouchet, Tobias Rehberger and Doug Aitken have developed exhibitions specifically for Schirn or presented new works and work groups for the first time at the Schirn (the most recent example was Daniel Richter).

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THE DIRECTORS OF THE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT Christoph Vitali (1986–1993), Hellmut Th. Seemann (1994–2001), Max Hollein (2001-2016), Philipp Demandt (from 1 October 2016)

All information about the exhibition program and the events scheduled at the Schirn as well as the MINISCHIRN is posted at www.schirn.de.

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