



Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern

Founded by
Maurice E. and Martha Müller
and the heirs of Paul Klee

Save the Date
18 September 2023

Hannah Höch. Assembled Worlds
10.11.2023–25.2.2024



One of the inventors of the modern collage, Hannah Höch (1889–1978) is considered an important protagonist in the art of the 1920s. Between 10 November 2023 and 25 February 2024 the Zentrum Paul Klee is devoting a major exhibition to the German artist, which will for the first time focus on the close relationship between Höch's work and avant-garde film. A unique panorama of the avant-garde unfolds around Hannah Höch.

'Films on paper'

The focus of the autumn exhibition in the Zentrum Paul Klee is on 60 photomontages by Hannah Höch. The works extend from her beginnings in Expressionism via her time with the Berlin Dadaists to the Surrealist trends after the Second World War. In 15 thematically organised spaces the works will be shown in the context of their time, and juxtaposed with masterpieces by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Kurt Schwitters, Fernand Léger and Wassily Kandinsky. Among these are 15 works from the collection of the Kunstmuseum Bern.

Twelve historic film screenings, including works by Hans Richter and László Moholy-Nagy, with whom Höch was friends, clearly demonstrate how close her work is to avant-garde film. Höch herself saw her photomontages 'in the border zone of film'. The exhibition reveals the fascination that cinema had on interwar art, and thus offers a media experience of the avant-garde imagery in the 1920s.

'Montage' and the power of images

Hanna Höch was one of the first artists ever to make the world of media and the power of images the object of her art. She composed her works from newspaper and magazine cuttings – a technique that she developed from 1918 onwards, and to which she remained faithful until the end of her life.

She was the only woman in the circle of the Berlin Dadaists. In the spirit of a new start and the swift technological progress after the First World War, these artists 'assembled' (*montierten*) works from the fragments of mass culture. Accordingly, they described their pictures not as collages but as 'montages'.

Höch's early photomontages in the spirit of Dadaism ironically reflect social or political themes such as the power of the mass media, the relationship between human and machine and gender roles. In most cases her works – in spite of their narrative character – remain mysterious and contradictory and elude any unambiguous interpretation, let alone solution.

After the Second World War Höch turned increasingly towards Surrealism and placed nature at the centre of her work. Abstract, representational and figurative motifs flow together in these works to form dreamlike landscapes. The garden of her house, in which she survived the Second World War in 'internal emigration', became one of her most important sources of inspiration.

Opening

The opening of the exhibition will take place on
Thursday, 9 November 2023, from 6 pm.
Admission to the exhibition is free on this evening.

Guided Tours in English

Sunday, 19 November 2023, 3pm
Sunday, 18 February 2024, 3pm

Curator

Martin Waldmeier

Assistant Curator

Kai-Inga Dost

Publication

To coincide with the exhibition, a publication focusing on Hannah Höch's engagement with the visual culture of modernism will be published.

Cooperation

An exhibition of the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, and Belvedere, Wien, where the show will be on display from 21 June until 6 October 2024.

With the support of

Kanton Bern, Burgergemeinde Bern, Bundesamt für Kultur BAK, Dr. Georg und Josi Guggenheim-Stiftung

Media preview

We cordially invite you to the media preview with curator Martin Waldmeier on **Thursday, 9 November 2023 at 10 am** at the Zentrum Paul Klee.

Please register via press@zpk.org.

Contact

Martina Witschi, Communications & Media relations
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Individual visit of the exhibition

We are looking forward to your individual visit to the exhibition. Admission to all exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee is free for media representatives with a valid press card. Please fill in the digital accreditation form which you can either access via zpk.org/press or by screening the QR-Code before your visit.

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01

Höch Hannah

Flucht [Flight], 1931

Collage

23 x 18,4 cm

Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V.,
Stuttgart

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02

Hannah Höch

Eule mit Lupe [Owl with Magnifying Glass],
1945

Collage on cardboard

19,5 x 25,2 cm

Private collection

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03

Hannah Höch

Friedensengel [Angel of Peace], around 1958

Collage on cardboard

22,2 x 17,5 cm

Berlinische Galerie – Landesmuseum für
Moderne Kunst, Fotografie und Architektur /
Repro: Kai-Annett Becker / Berlinische
Galerie

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04

Hannah Höch

Um einen Roten Mund [Around a Red Mouth],
around 1967

Collage

20,5 x 16,5 cm

Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V.,
Stuttgart

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