

press release

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Cézanne. Metamorphoses

28 October 2017 to 11 February 2018.

Cézanne in Karlsruhe! A great exhibition entitled Cézanne. Metamorphoses, devoted to Paul Cézanne (1839–1906) and sponsored by the State of Baden-Württemberg, is held at the Kunsthalle Karlsruhe 28 October 2017 to 11 February 2018.

Paul Cézanne produced a multifaceted oeuvre that includes paintings, drawings and watercolours. With his penchant for abstract elements, the French artist is seen today as one of the foremost pioneers of modern art. His own ambition, however, was to revive painting based on classical tradition: "In contact with the great masters, the artist learns to think; in contact with nature, to see." Accordingly, Cézanne developed his own style delving into the works of early and contemporary masters – from El Greco to Rubens to Delacroix – and into nature in the Provence.

The great state exhibition shows the lengthy process that enabled the artist to create timeless images based on the study of nature and great masters, highlighting the fascinating way he transformed what he perceived into richly coloured compositions. The overarching intent is to present major works from all of Cézanne's creative phases, to illustrate all of the genres he explored and to document all the techniques he used. Moreover, the exhibition highlights the subtle transitions between genres, the interplay of subjects, and the double-entendres in his oeuvre. In the painting that figures a jacket on a chair, for example, solid structures seem to melt and flowing forms to solidify, so that the jacket finally evokes the contours of Mont Sainte-Victoire.

Ms. Petra Olschowski, state secretary of the regional Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts, asserts: "In this show, culture becomes an aesthetic experience that engages the visitor's senses, and a chance to delight in the pleasure of fine art. The Cézanne exhibition in Karlsruhe also demonstrates the significance of Baden-Württemberg as a cultural location. Museums in the region can rely on the state's support: the regional government not only provides regular funding for large exhibitions, but also supports special projects like the Cézanne show at the Kunsthalle Karlsruhe."

Professor Pia Müller-Tamm, director of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, adds: "Cézanne did not follow the classic sequence that goes from sketch to drawing and finally to painting or water colour. Instead, his genius lay in creating numerous versions of the same subject using various techniques. His works

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illustrate his constant research in structure, dimension and logic – a process that he never really completed as he was always in doubt. Dr. Alexander Eiling, curator of the exhibition, developed his concept based on these continuous metamorphoses. My special thanks go to him and his team for this work.”

As for Dr. Martin Hoernes, general secretary of the Ernst von Siemens Foundation that has provided generous support for the exhibition, he states: “To view Cézanne’s oeuvre from the perspective of its fruition, illuminating the constant transformations from one form to another, is an innovative and quite exciting approach. Moreover, it was important to create a holistic interpretation of this oeuvre in order to offer the public a new perspective on the artist.”

The Cézanne. Metamorphoses exhibition at the Kunsthalle Karlsruhe was made possible thanks to more than one hundred magnificent works on loan from international collections such as the J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles), the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum (Madrid), the Pushkin Museum (Moscow) and the Museum of Modern Art (New York). Dr. Juliane Betz and Ms. Eva-Maria Höllerer assisted Dr. Alexander Eiling as co-curators.

The exhibition is under the patronage of Mr. Winfried Kretschmann, Baden-Württemberg’s minister-president, and Her Excellency Anne-Marie Descôtes, the French ambassador to Germany. It is supported by special funds from the state of Baden-Württemberg. The main sponsor is L-Bank, with additional funding provided by the Ernst von Siemens Foundation, the International Music and Art Foundation, the Fontana Foundation and the Dr. Ilse Völter endowment fund.

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Opening hours

Tuesday until Sunday, public holidays: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday until 9 p.m.
Closed on Monday

Admission fee

regular: € 12
concession: € 9

Multimediaguide

regular: € 4
concession: € 2

Catalogue

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