

Media Release

Basel, August 17, 2024

Pairings

August 17, 2024 – July 27, 2025, Kunstmuseum Basel | Hauptbau

Curator: Géraldine Meyer

Certain themes and forms are taken up again and again by artists regardless of time and place. The phenomenon of epoch-spanning artistic parallels and how they stimulate the imagination is the focus of *Pairings*. The exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Basel shows some twenty juxtapositions of paintings, sculptures, and photographic works from the Museum's own collection with selected objects from the private Im Obersteg Collection.

The presentation is designed to be associative and is intended to encourage an intuitive approach to art. The mixture of works from different eras and genres may lead at times to surprising encounters, and at times to harmonious elective affinities. In *Pairings*, the works seem to engage in an interaction – for instance, when a large-format painting by contemporary Basel artist Mireille Gros encounters a small oil sketch by Paul Cezanne. Both are united by their artistic exploration of the perception of nature. In Hans Holbein the Younger's *Zwei Totenschädel in einer Fensternische* (*Two Skulls in a Window Niche*) from 1520 and Niklaus Stoecklin's *Neue Sachlichkeit* painting *Sarg-Schreinerei* (*Coffin-Maker's Shop*) from 1919, two different associations with death stand in contrast to one another.

The exhibition will remain in constant motion. During the twelve-month run, new artworks will regularly be added, while others are removed. The ever-changing configuration of the collection will thus develop its own choreography.

Selected pairs of works are accompanied by brief observations written by people in and outside the art world – the writer Ilma Rakusa, Pastor Caroline Schröder-Field, 12-year-old schoolgirl Maira Van Dam, and the provenance researcher Tessa Rosebrock, among others. From the perspective of different age groups and unequal expertise, the authors foreground different aspects of the image content. Music, too, is an integral part of *Pairings*. In a collaboration with the Foundation for Young Musicians Basel, up-and-coming musicians have recorded selected compositions to accompany certain pairs of

works. Visitors can listen to the music through headphones on benches in front of the artworks.

A separate exhibition room is also dedicated to Marc Chagall: a group of early drawings and a painting by the artist were recently added to the collection of the Kunstmuseum Basel. The juxtaposition with the well-known Chagall holdings of the Im Obersteg Collection offers new insights into the painter's early work and illustrates how the expansion of both collections continually enable new encounters with his work.

The occasion for the *Pairings* exhibition is the porcelain anniversary of the Im Obersteg Foundation and the Kunstmuseum Basel: the renowned private collection has been on deposit at the Kunstmuseum Basel for exactly 20 years.

Pairings in the first hanging:

- Alexej von Jawlensky (1864–1941) / Joan Miró (1893–1983)
- Antoni Clavé (1913–2005) / Gertrud Bock-Schnirlin (1878–1948) and Konrad Witz (ca. 1400–ca. 1445/47)
- Bernard Buffet (1928–1999) / Lenz Klotz (1925–2017)
- Carl Burckhardt (1878–1923) / Suzanne Valadon (1865–1938)
- Franziska Schiratzki (*1960) / Maurice de Vlaminck (1876–1958)
- Hans Arp (1886–1966) / Aristide Maillol (1861–1944)
- Hans Baldung Gen. Grien (1484/85–1545) / Otto Plattner (1886–1951)
- Hans Holbein d. J. (ca. 1497/98–1543) / Niklaus Stoecklin (1896–1982)
- Jean Dubuffet (1901–1985) / Jean Dubuffet (1901–1985)
- Jean-Paul Riopelle (1923–2002) / Walter Bodmer (1903–1973)
- Marc Chagall (1887–1985) / Marc Chagall (1887–1985)
- Maria La Roche (1870–1985) / Alexej von Jawlensky (1864–1941)
- Mireille Gros (*1954) / Paul Cezanne (1839–1906)
- Pablo Picasso (1881–1973) / Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841–1919)
- Raoul Dufy (1877–1953) / Raoul Dufy (1877–1953)
- Ulrike Rosenbach (*1943) / Alexej von Jawlensky (1864–1941)

In regularly scheduled re-hangings, new works by other artists will be added to the exhibition and others removed.

Images and information about the exhibition:

www.kunstmuseumbasel.ch/medien

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Events:

09/21/2024, 2-4:30 pm

It's a match. Curating for children. (german)

In this workshop, the audience is encouraged to contribute their own suggestions for pairings from the two collections. The first workshop is geared specifically for children, with more to follow in 2025.

For children aged 7-10, CHF 15.- (with family pass, CHF 10.-), max. 15 people

08/20/2024, 12:30-1 pm

Rendez-vous at Lunchtime – Pairings tour (german) with artist Mireille Gros and curator Géraldine Meyer

Hauptbau EG [Main Building, ground floor]

09/10/2024, 12:30-1 pm

Rendez-vous at Lunchtime – Pairings tour (german) with author Benjamin von Wyl and curator Géraldine Meyer

Hauptbau EG [Main Building, ground floor]

19.11.2024, 12:30-1 pm

Rendez-vous at Lunchtime – Pairings tour (german) with artist Franziska Schiratzki, art historian Ricarda Gerosa, and curator Géraldine Meyer

Hauptbau EG [Main Building, ground floor]