



Gertrude Sandmann, Mira, türkis/blau/weiß, l. 1972, Pastell auf Papier, 34,5 x 24,1 cm
© Berlinische Galerie, Foto: Anja Elisabeth Witte

Drawing the City Paper-based works from 1945 to the present

14.8.20–4.1.21

Berlin has been drawn by its history, by triumphs and fiascos, by feudalism, pragmatism, liberalism, democracies and dictatorships. It has also been drawn and painted by many artists. The Berlinische Galerie holds one of the biggest and most significant collections of art about the city of Berlin. The Collection of Prints and Drawings alone houses an abundant variety of about 25,000 works on numerous themes. Art from East Berlin accounts for a substantial and valuable share of the holdings. In recent years, the Collection of Prints and Drawings has benefited from many excellent new acquisitions.

A special selection will go on display from 14 August, in many cases for the first time. It will embrace more than 175 works, some as complex series, by 22 women and 47 men: mostly drawings in all formats from big to small, much in colour, much in black-and-white, in very different techniques and with a variegated bouquet of representational art, photorealism, surrealism, late Expressionism, abstract styles, illustrations and comics.

“Drawing the City” is structured in six chapters and features artists of world renown – among them Rainer Fetting, K.H. Hödicke, Tal R, Tacita Dean, Wolf Vostell – but also plenty of time and space for discoveries and rediscoveries of powerful works and powerful biographies of artists like Gabriele Basch, Thomas Bayrle, Gertrude Sandmann, Werner Heldt, Evelyn Kuwertz, Klaus Vogelgesang.

The show features 20 East German names, among them Klaus Ensikat, Dieter Goltzsche, Monika Meiser, Florian Merkel, and 40 West German contributors, including Patrizia Bach, Arved Dietrich, Pia Linz, Malte Spohr, Bernd Trasberger.

The majority – 50 artists – live in Berlin and are still creatively productive. Some works portray Berlin under an intense gaze from outside, such as those by Catherine Bührendt-Metais, Marcel van Eeden, Terry Fox, Antonio Saura, Emilio Vedova.

100 Years of Greater Berlin

This year Berlin is marking a special centenary in its history as a city with a range of events and shows, and “Drawing the City” is part of these celebrations. On 1 October 1920 seven neighbouring towns and many rural districts were integrated within new boundaries to form a single city. Overnight this made Berlin, with some 3.8 million inhabitants, a global

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metropolis with a strong economy and vibrant culture, and alongside Los Angeles, New York and London one of the biggest cities in the world:

<https://www.berlin.de/berlin100/>

Annelie Lütgens, exhibition curator and head of the Collection of Prints and Drawings:

“If we follow the history of the drawn city, it by no means tracks a straight line but more of a zigzag. Exploring this urban nature, its knotted growth, habitats, structures, architectures and its inhabitants, its reservoir of characters, by pictorial means has been an object of artistic endeavour down the years, and this exhibition, broken down into six themed clusters, tells that story. Traces of history can be detected in many works, and there are flickers of visual memory from Berlin in the Weimar Republic.”



Werner Heldt, Trümmer, 1947, Tuschefeder und Tuschpinsel auf Velinpapier, 28 x 34,9 cm, © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2020, Foto: Kai-Annett Becker

Information by chapter:

- 1) A Dream in Ruins: 11 artists, 26 works
- 2) Urban Biotopes: 27 artists, 63 works
- 3) Subjective Topography: 8 artists, 10 works
- 4) Architecture – Structure: 9 artists, 33 works
- 5) Nature under Observation: 7 artists, 9 works
- 6) City Population: 13 artists, 30 works

Bertram Hasenauer, K.H. Hödicke, Mark Kubitzke, Katharina Meldner, Nanne Meyer, Robert Rehfeld can each be found in two chapters of the exhibition.

List of artists A-Z

Franz Ackermann, Patrizia Bach, Heike Kati Barath, Volker Bartsch, Gabriele Basch, Thomas Bayrle, Norbert Behrend, Günter Blendinger, Bettina Blohm, Joachim Böttcher, KP Brehmer, Gisela

Breitling, Catherine Bührendt-Métais, Tacita Dean, Arved Dietrich, Antje Dorn, Marcel van Eeden, Klaus Ensikat, Rainer Fetting, Karin Fleischer, Terry Fox, Friedrich-Wilhelm Fretwurst, Antje Fretwurst-Colberg, Lothar Gemmel, Dieter Goltzsche, Elli Graetz, Claus Haase, Sarah Haffner, Frank Hartung, Bertram Hasenauer, Eberhard Havekost, Werner Heldt, Thomas Hermsdorf, K.H. Hödicke, Günther Horn, Jan Huber, Friederike Klotz, Mark Kubitzke, Evelyn Kuwertz, Wolfgang Leber, Rolf Lindemann, Pia Linz, Theresa Lükenwerk, Susanne Mahlmeister, Marwan, Monika Meiser, Katharina Meldner, Florian Merkel, Nanne Meyer, Gisela Neumann, Michael Otto, Tal R, Thomas Ravens, Robert Rehfeldt, Klaus Roenspieß, Alexander Roob, Jürgen Rosemann, Gertrude Sandmann, Antonio Saura, Egmont Schaefer, Eugen Schönebeck, Andreas Seltzer, Malte Spohr, Walter Stöhrer, Bernd Trasberger, Emilio Vedova, Klaus Vogelgesang, Wolf Vostell, Gerd Wessel.

Exhibition catalogue

Wienand Verlag, De/En, 288 pages, 217 illustrations

Press images

<https://berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/drawing-the-city/>

Social Media

#drawingthecity #berlinischegalerie #berlin100

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Wed–Mon 10 am–6 pm, Tue closed