
Press release, Potsdam, October 26, 2023

**Over 100,000 guests visit the exhibition
“Clouds and Light: Impressionism in Holland”**

Over 100,000 visitors saw the exhibition *Clouds and Light: Impressionism in Holland* from July 8 to October 22, 2023, at the Museum Barberini in Potsdam. The accompanying education and events program also attracted great interest: during the fifteen-week run, around 800 public and individual guided tours as well as events such as concerts, talks, lectures, and yoga sessions drew almost 15,000 participants.

Curated by Michael Philipp, chief curator at the Museum Barberini, the exhibition *Clouds and Light* explored how nineteenth-century Dutch painters were inspired by French influences to create their own unique, Dutch form of Impressionism. The comprehensive show was the first exhibition devoted to the subject and brought together some 100 works by forty artists, including key works by Johan Barthold Jongkind, Vincent van Gogh, Jacoba van Heemskerck, and Piet Mondrian that had previously seldom been shown in Germany. Lenders included the Rijksmuseum and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Kunstmuseum Den Haag, the Dordrechts Museum, the Kröller Müller Museum in Otterlo, and the Singer Museum in Laren.

“Dutch art of the nineteenth century has rarely been shown in Germany thus far and, with few exceptions, is hardly represented in local museums. Apart from Mondrian and Van Gogh, painters such as Jacoba van Heemskerck, Jan Toorop, Jan Sluijters, and many others are still virtually unknown in Germany. We are all the more pleased that we were able to honor nineteenth-century Dutch art so comprehensively in the Museum Barberini thanks to the generous support of the lenders, and that our audience was so enthusiastic about these artists, who are scarcely known in Germany,” Michael Philipp summarizes.

The end of the exhibition *Clouds and Light* also marks the conclusion of the city-wide project „Holland in Potsdam,“ which for the first time united more than twenty cultural institutions in Potsdam around a single theme, from the Jan Bouman Haus and the Film Museum to the Liebermann Villa on Wannsee. Initiated by the Museum Barberini, the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg, and the state capital Potsdam, the joint project focused on Dutch influences on Potsdam’s history and cityscape, with numerous exhibitions and events as well as an audio tour and blog from April to October 2023.

The Barberini app's audio tour *Holland in Potsdam*, created in collaboration with the cultural institutions, highlighted twenty locations with connections to Holland and was listened to by more than 3,300 users over the seven-month period. The blog of the same name, edited by the Museum Barberini, posted new event dates and contributions from participating institutions each week and was visited by almost 10,000 users. Both the audio tour and the blog with its more than fifty articles on Dutch connections in Potsdam will be permanently available in digital form. One of the highlights of the theme year was the first Potsdam Culture Festival, which took place on September 10, 2023. More than twenty cultural venues offered a diverse program and free admission and welcomed a large number of guests, not only at the Museum Barberini.

I am delighted that Potsdam's cultural institutions celebrated the theme 'Holland in Potsdam' citywide in 2023 based on our exhibition. The positive response from guests and the impact on the city is due to the great enthusiasm shown by all who were involved in creating the audio tour and blog, exhibitions and events. We would like to thank all our colleagues from the cultural institutions, the Palaces and Gardens Foundation, and the state capital Potsdam for this wonderful, lively, and successful theme year," says Ortrud Westheider, Director of the Museum Barberini.

Starting November 18, 2023, the exhibition *Edvard Munch: Trembling Earth* at the Museum Barberini will explore the artist's fascination with nature for the first time. Conceived in collaboration with the Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA, and the Munchmuseet, Oslo, the show brings together more than 110 works from international lenders, including the Munchmuseet, Oslo, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, the Museum Folkwang, Essen, and the Von der Heydt Museum, Wuppertal. Parallel to the Potsdam show, the Berlinische Galerie will exhibit *Edvard Munch: Magic of the North* (Sept. 15, 2023–Jan. 22, 2024). A combined ticket to both exhibitions is available from the museums. With over 110 Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, the Museum Barberini also features a permanent exhibition of the collection of museum founder Hasso Plattner.

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