
Potsdam, December 21, 2021

Museum Barberini concludes 2021 with 150,000 visitors—despite four-month closure and reduced visitor capacity

With digital offers, new exhibition dates, and a show that was brought back, the Museum Barberini successfully navigated the second year of the COVID pandemic. Having welcomed 150,000 visitors in 2021, the museum now looks forward to the year 2022, which will see shows dedicated to photography, abstraction, and surrealism. Impressionist art from the Hasso Plattner Collection continues to be a focus.

“It is a great challenge to run a museum with an ambitious exhibition program during a pandemic. But despite all adversities, we conclude the second year of the pandemic on a positive note,” says Ortrud Westheider, Director of the Museum Barberini. The exhibition *Impressionism in Russia*, scheduled to start in late 2020, could not be shown as planned because the museum had to close from November 2020 to mid-March 2021. In consultation with its cooperation partners, the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and the Museum Frieder Burda in Baden-Baden, the Museum Barberini was able to postpone the show to the autumn, and it is still on display until January 9, 2022. “We are thrilled to be able to show *Impressionism in Russia* again. More than 85,000 visitors have already seen it,” says Westheider. Last year, 150,000 visitors saw *Rembrandt’s Orient, Impressionism in Russia*, as well as the Hasso Plattner Collection—“an impressive number considering that we had to get through two long lockdowns and could only sell a limited allotment of tickets.” Only a third of the usual number is currently available, and tickets are sold out almost every day.

During the museum’s closure, it was above all digital formats that enabled the museum to keep in touch with its audience and present its exhibitions. “Virtual guided tours delivered daily for individual visitors and for groups—a program that is unique in its scope in Germany—, a multi-media website accompanying the exhibition, online talks, 360-degree tours, a filmed reading with the actor Fabian Hinrichs, a guided tour with Florian Illies, and many other offers brought the art and the stories behind the paintings into visitors’ homes,” explains Westheider.

International collaborative shows in 2022: photography, abstraction, and surrealism

On view from February, *A New Art: Photography and Impressionism*, in cooperation with the Von der Heydt-Museum in Wuppertal, will explore the relationship between impressionist painting and the beginnings of photography, as well as the new medium’s gradual establishment as an independent art form. Starting in June, *The Shape of Freedom: International Abstraction after 1945*, in partnership with the Albertina Modern in Vienna, will be dedicated

to abstract impressionism and Art Informel, featuring works by artists including Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Lee Krasner, Georges Mathieu, Joan Mitchell, Ernst-Wilhelm Nay, Jackson Pollock, Judit Reigl, Mark Rothko, and Wols. October will see the opening of *Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernity* in cooperation with the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, which will focus on magic and myth in the work of surrealist painters.

In parallel, impressionist and post-impressionist works from the Hasso Plattner Collection have been on permanent display at the Museum Barberini since September 2020. On the Barberini App, works from the collection and from the current exhibition are presented in juxtaposition.

What's on in 2022: Upcoming exhibitions at the Museum Barberini

A New Art: Photography and Impressionism

February 12, 2022–May 8, 2022

The exhibition examines the new medium of photography in its gradual establishment as an independent art form. Showcasing more than 150 works, including photographs by Gustave Le Gray, Alfred Stieglitz, and Heinrich Kuhn, it illuminates the new medium's complex relationship to impressionist painting. Participating lenders include the Münchner Stadtmuseum, the Photoinstitut Bonartes in Vienna, and the Musée d'Orsay and the Societe Francaise de Photographie in Paris. In cooperation with the Von der Heydt-Museum in Wuppertal.

The Shape of Freedom: International Abstraction after 1945

June 4, 2022–September 25, 2022

Exploring the creative interaction between abstract expressionism and Art Informel in transatlantic exchange and dialogue from the 1940s to the end of the Cold War, the exhibition comprises more than 90 outstanding works by artists including Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Lee Krasner, Georges Mathieu, Joan Mitchell, Ernst-Wilhelm Nay, Jackson Pollock, Judit Reigl, Mark Rothko, and Wols. The more than thirty international lenders include the Centre Pompidou in Paris, Tate Modern in London, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. In cooperation with the Albertina Modern in Vienna.

Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernity

October 22, 2022–January 29, 2023

The first comprehensive show dedicated to the surrealists' interest in magic and myth, *Surrealism and Magic* will feature more than 90 paintings including important key works by Victor Brauner, Paul Delvaux, Max Ernst, Leonor Fini, Rene Magritte, Kurt Seligmann, Yves Tanguy, and Dorothea Tanning. International lenders include the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museo nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, the Musees royaux des

Beaux-Arts de Belgique in Brussels, as well as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. In cooperation with the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice.

Impressionism: The Hasso Plattner Collection

The Museum Barberini permanently shows the extensive collection of impressionist paintings by its founder Hasso Plattner, including more than 100 masterworks by Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir, Berthe Morisot, Alfred Sisley, Camille Pissarro, Henri-Edmond Cross, Paul Signac, and other impressionist and post-impressionist painters. Among them are 34 paintings by Claude Monet, more than can be seen together anywhere in Europe outside Paris. Potsdam is thus one of the most important centers of impressionist landscape painting in the world.

Further information:

museum-barberini.de

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