
Potsdam, November 22, 2018

When and why does art touch us?

Kick-off of the event and information programme on the current exhibitions with bestselling author Florian Illies

An extensive programme of events and information with lectures, guided tours, discussions, concerts and films accompanies the two current exhibitions *Colour and Light: The Neo-Impressionist Henri-Edmond Cross* and *Olympian Gods*. The first will be the journalist and author Florian Illies. On November 26, 2018 he will discuss the seductive power of art with Christoph Amend, editor-in-chief of ZEITmagazin and publisher of WELTKUNST. What does (good) art do with us? When and why does art touch us? Which works accompany us all our lives? Florian Illies can say it for himself: During a visit to Frankfurt's Städel, the then 10-year-old was enraptured by a large, colorful painting: *Afternoon in the Garden* by Henri-Edmond Cross. The re-encounter 36 years later with the work now exhibited in Potsdam becomes the occasion for a fundamental discussion, intensified by a short reading from his current bestseller *1913*.

On the occasion of the presentation *Olympian Gods*, the literary scholar and president of the German Academy for Language and Poetry Ernst Osterkamp portrays the legendary founder of art history Johann Joachim Winckelmann (1717-1768) a few days later on 29 November 2018. Winckelmann was fascinated by the beauty and presence of the body representations of the ancient sculptures. In an entertaining way, Ernst Osterkamp illustrates in his lecture how his idealized view of the statues of heroes and gods lives on in today's notions of beauty.

Art Seduces

Florian Illies, journalist, art historian, and author, Berlin

Christoph Amend, editor-in-chief of ZEITmagazin and publisher of WELTKUNST, Berlin

Monday, November 26, 2018, 7 p.m.

€ 10 / reduced € 8

Noble Simplicity, Quiet Grandeur. Travel with Winckelmann to Visit Ancient Gods

Prof. Dr. Ernst Osterkamp, Humboldt University of Berlin

Thursday, November 29, 2018, 7 p.m.

€ 10 / reduced € 8

About the exhibitions *Colour and Light: The Neo-Impressionist Henri-Edmond Cross and Olympian Gods*

Last Saturday, the Potsdam Museum Barberini opened with the retrospective *Color and Light*. The Neo-Impressionist Henri-Edmond Cross is another exhibition dedicated to Classical Modernism in France. Around 1900 Cross was regarded as one of the most important representatives of the French avant-garde and was known for his light-flooded depictions of the Riviera. On the first two days after the opening, around 2.200 visitors flocked into the house to marvel at his colorful dream landscapes. The large-scale retrospective includes numerous Neo-Impressionist masterpieces from some of the world's most important museums, including loans from the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen. They are complemented by selected key works from international private collections that are otherwise not accessible to the public. Parallel to the cross exhibition, the Museum Barberini is presenting *Olympian Gods* in the exhibition of masterpieces from the Antikensammlungen of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.

More information:

www.museum-barberini.com/en/henri-edmond-cross

www.museum-barberini.com/en/olympian-gods/

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