
Potsdam, November 29, 2018

Conference *Van Gogh: Still Lifes*

Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 10am to 7pm

International van Gogh experts explore the still life genre in the artist's work

Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890) repeatedly painted still lifes, from his first painting to the colorful flower pictures of his later years. Using this genre, he was able to test out with painterly means and possibilities from the august Dutch tradition of the seventeenth century—first looking to Rembrandt, later to Jan Davidsz de Heem—to the use of light and shadow to capture a space and experiments with color. Van Gogh's reactions to impressionism can be observed in his still lifes as well as in his processing of the influence of Japanese woodblock prints. In his letters, too, van Gogh repeatedly referred to the significance of still lifes for the development of his oeuvre. Of the 800 or so paintings he produced over the course of his career, 167 are still lifes. It is therefore all the more astonishing that no monographic exhibition has ever been devoted to the genre of the still life in van Gogh's work.

The first exhibition on this subject, to be shown from October 26, 2019 to February 2, 2020 at the Museum Barberini, Potsdam, analyses the decisive stages in van Gogh's work and life using over 20 paintings. The show is a collaboration with the Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, and the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, with loans from the Art Institute of Chicago and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The patron of the exhibition is H.E. Wepke Kingma, ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Germany.

During the symposium on December 5, 2018, international van Gogh experts including Sjraar van Heugten, Stefan Koldehoff, and Marije Vellekoop will explore the exhibition's central questions. Their lectures will be published in the exhibition catalog in autumn 2019.

With Sjraar van Heugten, Utrecht; Stefan Koldehoff, Cologne; Dr. Michael Philipp, Museum Barberini, Potsdam; Eliza Rathbone, Washington, DC; Dr. Oliver Tostmann, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT; Marije Vellekoop, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam; Prof. Dr. Michael F. Zimmermann, Catholic University of Eichstätt

€ 10 / reduced € 8, free admission for students, registration required

Van Gogh: Still Lifes

October 26, 2019 to February 2, 2020

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