
Potsdam, January 3, 2020

100,000 visitors for Van Gogh

Exhibition on Van Gogh's still life runs until 2 February 2020
Over 390,000 visitors in 2019

Today the Museum Barberini welcomed the 100,000th visitor to its exhibition *Van Gogh: Still Lifes*. With a representative selection of 27 works, the show illustrates the role played in the artist's development by his still life paintings. Ortrud Westheider, director of the Museum Barberini: "There has never been an exhibition dedicated to still life by Van Gogh before. We are delighted that our focus has been inspiring so many visitors with this new take on his art. We advise anyone who still wants to see the show to book tickets online in advance. As we only have six rooms for this exhibition, numbers have been limited to ensure that all our visitors enjoy their experience to the full."

Altogether 390,000 visitors came to the Museum Barberini in 2019 to see the exhibitions on Picasso's late work, Baroque masterpieces in Rome and the still life paintings by Van Gogh. More than 3,300 group tours were provided for adults and children. This makes last year's attendance at the new museum in Potsdam the biggest since its opening year in 2017, and the Picasso show in spring 2019 proved to be the most popular exhibition after the opening show. "We have been overwhelmed by the public reaction and by the enthusiasm for our building, our exhibitions, our events, our wide-ranging education programme and the digital services we provide," says Ortrud Westheider. "The response to our 13 shows to date has been excellent, both from the general public and from the media. Over 100,000 holders of our annual Barberini Friends ticket drop by regularly. About 250,000 users make the most of the Barberini App with its audio guides and specially edited content, such as expert videos and podcasts. And about a third of our visitors use the Barberini App while they are here, either on their own smart phones or on the devices they can hire in the museum."

The exhibition *Van Gogh: Still Lifes*, put together by Michael Philipp, the Chief Curator at the Museum Barberini, which can still be seen until 2 February 2020, surveys the artist's entire oeuvre, from his early studies in dark, earthy tones produced between 1881 and 1885 to the brightly hued still lifes with fruit and flowers painted during his final years in Arles, Saint-Rémy and Auvers. Michael Philipp: "He made the still life genre an experimental arena to try out painterly techniques and potential. His reaction to Impressionism, which Van Gogh was able to witness in Paris, is reflected in the still life paintings, as is his response to the influence of coloured woodcuts from Japan. What we can observe particularly by looking at his still lifes is the way he evolved an ever greater freedom and intensity in his use of colour."

Following the Van Gogh exhibition, the Museum Barberini will be showing *Monet: Places* from 22 February to 1 June 2020. With over 100 works, this will be the biggest Monet exhibition in Germany to date. From 27 June until 11 October 2020, the exhibition *Rembrandt's Orient* will look at how the great master himself and other painters of the Dutch Golden Age reflected non-European cultures and explores their image of the Orient. In autumn the Museum Barberini will launch the exhibition *Impressionism in Russia* (7 November 2020 to 28 February 2021). This event will demonstrate the international quality of the Impressionist style adopted by artists around 1900, showing how it also became a springboard for avant-garde painters like Natalia Goncharova, Mikhail Larionov and Kazimir Malevich. The exhibition integrates Russian artists into the project of European Modernism.

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