
Potsdam, April 20, 2020

Museum Barberini Examines Requirements for Reopening

On Friday, April 17, 2020, the state of Brandenburg agreed to the reopening of museums, albeit under strict conditions in terms of hygiene and social distancing. The Museum Barberini is currently reviewing these safety and hygiene regulations in consultation with the responsible authorities in Potsdam and plans their technical and organizational implementation. The museum is also in close contact with other cultural institutions in Potsdam and Berlin.

“We have drawn up a hygiene plan and concepts for regulating the flow of visitors. In order to ensure the safest possible visit to the exhibition, we still need some more time to adapt the necessary protective measures for the building. We hope to make our Monet exhibition accessible to our visitors again as soon as possible. We will keep you posted on the opening date,” the museum’s Director, Ortrud Westheider, explains.

With numerous online resources and digital offers accompanying the exhibition *Monet: Places*, the Museum Barberini gives daily insights into the exhibition, giving insights into its narrative threads, themes and works on display. In addition to a mini-site on the exhibition, filmed curatorial tours, 360° tours of the galleries, and interviews with international Monet scholars, the museum now offers *Barberini Live Tours*.

In this format, experienced guides invite users to an interactive journey through the wide-ranging places that Monet painted and which significantly influenced the course of his long and prolific career—from the metropolis of Paris and the Seine villages of Argenteuil, Vétheuil and Giverny to travel destinations such as London or Venice. This virtual tour does not only feature reproductions of the paintings themselves, but also conveys a sense of the atmosphere in the galleries, allowing users to understand the decisions behind the installation and the way clusters of works illuminate key artistic approaches and themes—almost as if they were in the museum themselves. Participants can experience the show in their own home, complete with a personal guide they can address questions to.

“We know that a virtual tour can never fully replace the encounter with the original. But the combination of a 360° tour with a personal guided tour comes very close to an exhibition visit and allows access to people who cannot visit the museum in person,” Ortrud Westheider points out. “In a preliminary test phase, we want to offer this unique guided-tour format for free. In doing so, we have the chance to gain valuable initial experience and to then gradually fine-tune the offer. From May 10, 2020, the virtual tour—where users join an online tour—will be subject to a fee. We are curious to see how users will react to this new offer.”

Further information on the *Barberini Live Tour* and the current digital activities of the Museum Barberini can be found at: www.museum-barberini.com/digital.

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