

Media release

“NOT MY CIRCUS, NOT MY MONKEYS. THE MOTIF OF THE CIRCUS IN CONTEMPORARY ART”

September 16 – December 3, 2023, Kunstmuseum Thun

Kathryn Andrews, Miriam Bäckström, Dieter Meier, Ugo Rondinone - from September 16 to December 3, 2023, the Kunstmuseum Thun will present works by international artists who use the motif of the circus. Against this backdrop, the group exhibition explores current social issues and questions political structures.

The origin of the circus can be dated back to the end of the 18th century, although at that time it was still found in fixed buildings and mainly in London. In the 19th century, circuses were anchored as a mass phenomenon in European metropolitan life. They attracted numerous representatives of the fields of literature, fine arts, music and film. Thus, circus motifs influenced naturalistic painting, New Objectivity, the avant-garde, and Expressionism.

Today, the place of sensual experiences and extremes may seem like a relic from a bygone era. And yet contemporary artists still make use of the repertoire of circus forms. For the circus offers an opportunity on both a micro and macro level to demonstrate current social conflicts, to expose stigmatization, to question power structures, or to illuminate the human-animal relationship. For example, the Zurich artist Istvan Balogh addresses the issue of overstimulation in today's society by showing the clown as a victim. A melancholy mood is evoked by clowns by New York-based artist Ugo Rondinone, whose shoes are literally hung on the nail. U.S. artist Kathryn Andrews leaves the clown costume behind as a melancholy veil, while in the video work by Russian artist Taus Makhacheva, a tightrope walker balances at a dizzying height.

Not My Circus, Not My Monkeys. The motif of the circus in contemporary art
Kunstmuseum Thun, September 16 – December 3, 2023

With works by: Kathryn Andrews, Miriam Bäckström, Istvan Balogh, Beni Bischof, Barbara Breitenfellner, Mona Boschàr, Michael Dannenmann, Latifa Echakhch, Nicola Hicks, Taus Makhacheva, Dieter Meier, Yves Netzhammer, Tal R, Augustin Rebetez, Boris Rebetez, Ugo Rondinone, Niklaus Rüegg, Francisco Sierra, Norbert Tadeusz, William Wegmann

A publication accompanying the exhibition will be published by HIRMER Verlag, Munich. With contributions by: Helen Hirsch, Alisa Klay, Sarah Elena Müller, Manfred Niekisch, Astrid Sedlmeier, Mandy Abou Shoak, Brigit Stammberger, Katrin Sperry

Media tour

September 14, 2023, 11 a.m.

Send registrations and interview requests in advance to miriam.margani@thun.ch

For a comprehensive press kit, visit www.kunstmuseumthun.ch/medien

Kunstmuseum Thun
Thunerhof, Hofstettenstrasse 14, 3602 Thun
T +41 (0)33 225 84 20 / F +41 (0)33 225 89 06
kunstmuseum@thun.ch, www.kunstmuseumthun.ch

Thun-Panorama
Besuchsadresse: Schadaupark, 3602 Thun
T +41 (0)33 223 24 62
panorama@thun.ch, www.thun-panorama.ch

KUNSTMUSEUM THUN



Opening

September 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Events

www.kunstmuseumthun.ch/agenda

Media contact

Kunstmuseum Thun, Miriam Margani, miriam.margani@thun.ch, T +41 (0)33 225 82 07

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunstmuseum Thun, Hofstettenstrasse 14, CH-3602 Thun

T +41(0)33 225 84 20, F +41(0)33 225 89 06, www.kunstmuseumthun.ch, kunstmuseum@thun.ch

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Monday closed.

Special opening hours: www.kunstmuseumthun.ch

Admission fee: CHF 10.–/ 8.–. Children up to the age of 16 are free, groups only with advance reservation

Special tours on request at: T +41(0)33 225 84 20 oder kunstmuseumt@thun.ch

Food and beverage: Café Artikum, www.cafeartikum.ch, info@cafeartikum.ch

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Photo material

When using the photographic material, we ask that you always include the captions provided and indicate the source of the material. Printable image material can be found at <http://www.kunstmuseumthun.ch/medien>



Francisco Sierra
Clown II (aus: Facebook), 2008
Oil on carton, 21 x 15.5 cm
Kunstmuseum Bern, Sammlung
Stiftung GegenWART



Michael Dannenmann
Fulgenci Mesters Bertran – Weissclown Gensi, 2016
C-Print, 39.5 x 29.3 cm
Courtesy of the artist



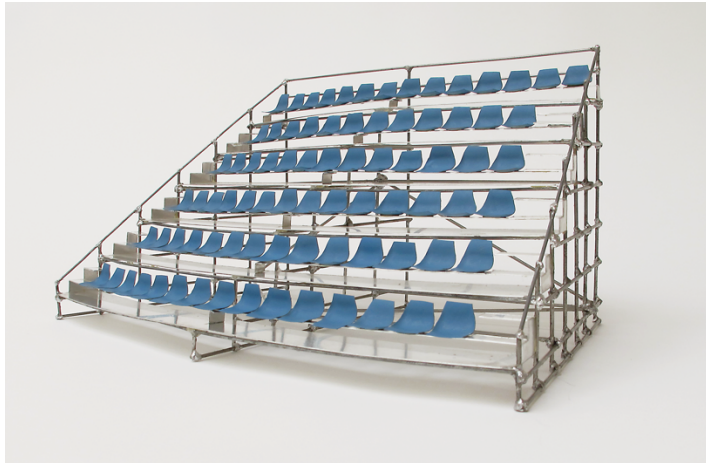
Istvan Balogh
Monkey with Lemon, 2009
Lambda-Print, 1–4
60 x 40 cm
Courtesy of the artist



Miriam Bäckström, *The Opposite of Me Is I*, 2011, Jacquard tapestry (silk, wool, cotton, acrylic and Lurex on Trevira CS warp, 290 x 970 cm, Courtesy of the artist

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Boris Rebetez

Regarde et je regarde aussi, 2001

Mixed media

37 x 29 x 27 cm

Courtesy of the artist



Zilla Leutenegger

Ring of fire, 2012

Video installation consisting of 1 wall drawing (acrylic on wall), 1 object (metal) and 1 projection (color, no sound, 11.42 min., Loop)

ca. 237 x 100 x 50 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zürich/Paris

Photo: Bernhard Strahm



Norbert Tadeusz

Das grosse Ei (Casino II), 1987

Oil on canvas, 300 x 550 cm

Norbert Tadeusz Estate

Photo: Hanna Neander

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