

Press Release

16 September 2024

Today's perception of Expressionism

Otto Mueller exhibition at the LWL–Museum für Kunst und Kultur

Münster (lwl). On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Otto Mueller's birth, the Münster-based LWL–Museum für Kunst und Kultur is organising a major exhibition dedicated to this Expressionist painter. From 20 September 2024 to 2 February 2025, a selection of Mueller's works is presented in the context of his time and in dialogue with paintings by artists from the *Die Brücke* group such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. The exhibition explores Mueller's keen interest in nudes, nature and foreign cultures, and presents the lives of his models and partners.

One of the most important representatives of German Expressionism, Mueller (1874–1930) is known for his vivid rendering of people and predilection for depicting nudes in landscapes. His endeavour to portray nature and people as they were a reaction not only against the upheavals of this time caused by industrialisation and urbanisation, but also against the moral constraints of early 20th-century society.



Otto Mueller, *Couple in a Dive*,
1913, Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg,
Photo: Bernd Kirtz

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The exhibition presents four works by the artist from the collection of the LWL–Museum and some sixty other works from major public and private collections, including those of Berlin’s Brücke Museum, Frankfurt’s Städel Museum, Vienna’s Albertina and New York’s Museum of Modern Art.



Otto Mueller, *Bathers*, 1913,
LWL–Museum für Kunst und Kultur, Münster.
Photo: LWL/Hanna Neander

It adopts a critical and analytical approach to the romanticised and stereotypical depictions of minorities in Mueller’s work. Sara Bahadori and Amdrita Jakupi from ‘Safe Space e.V.’ made a film in which they conducted interviews with people from the Romani community. The interviewees describe how Mueller’s images affect them and report on the injuries that can be caused by racist titles.

An installation by the Black German scientist Natasha A. Kelly (born in 1973) explores his connections to colonialism, while works by artists from the Romani community like Małgorzata Mirga-Tas (born in 1978), Luna De Rosa (born in 1991) and Vera Lacková (born in 1989) underline wide-spread prejudices and re-evaluate the depictions of Romani people in the works on display.

Journalists are invited to a guided tour of the exhibition on 17 September at 11:00 am.

Press texts and photos from the exhibition are available on the museum’s website

(www.lwl.org, Newsroom).

The exhibition is sponsored by the following organisations: Stiftung kunst³, Stifterkreis des Museums, LWL–Kulturstiftung

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