



Museum der Moderne  
Salzburg

## Press Release

### Georg Eisler

#### World-View

18 November 2017—8 April 2018

Rupertinum [1] & [2]

**On occasion of a generous donation of works from the Georg und Alice Eisler-Stiftungsfonds, which supports visual artists and composers, the Museum der Moderne Salzburg mounts a major exhibition of the art of the painter Georg Eisler at the Rupertinum. It is the first time the donated ensemble will be presented to the public, complemented by selections from the museum's existing holdings of works by the artist.**

Salzburg, 17 November, 2017. Georg Eisler (1928–1998 Vienna, AT), the son of the composer Hanns Eisler and the singer Charlotte Eisler, grew up in Moscow and Prague and eventually in Great Britain. In 1946, he settled in his native Vienna, one of the few Austrians who returned from exile. The human being stands at the center of his art—as an individual personality, but also as a member of the crowd, woven into the social fabric of anonymous urban life. Eisler paints and draws harried pedestrians, shoppers at outdoor markets, bored passengers on public transport, and voyeurs in bars. Besides portraits of his contemporaries and scenes in coffee houses and nightclubs, public demonstrations are a crucial theme in the exhibition. Newly topical today in light of recent political developments, these works of expressive realism present an unflinching and acutely critical portrait of the overbearing power and despotism of the authorities. “Georg Eisler’s political pictures are as relevant today as they were when they were created, which is why they occupy a prominent position in the show. We invite our visitors to rediscover his oeuvre as a salient example of the revival of representational expressionist painting. I am immensely grateful to the Georg und Alice Eisler-Stiftungsfonds for the generous donation and especially to Susanne Berchtold, a member of the foundation’s board of trustees, whose recent passing we mourn,” says Sabine Breitwieser, director of the Museum der Moderne Salzburg.

The donated ensemble and selections from the Museum der Moderne Salzburg’s holdings of art by Georg Eisler, which now encompass more than three hundred works, will make their public debut in an exhibition in the galleries on levels [1] and [2] of the Rupertinum. Director Sabine Breitwieser and Beatrice von Bormann, who helped arrange for the donation during her tenure as the museum’s head of collections, were able to choose a sizable set of works from the artist’s estate. The paintings and works on paper are grouped by themes such as “Returning Home and Recollections of Exile”, “Jazz and Nightclubs”, and, most prominently, “Crowds and Power”, with depictions of crowds, demonstrations, and violent altercations between police and protesters.

Accompanying his mother, Georg Eisler fled continental Europe for Great Britain in 1939. It was there that his creative talent was nurtured at various art schools; a crucial influence was Oskar Kokoschka, with whom he took private lessons in London. Having returned to Vienna in 1946, he hoped to study at the Academy of Fine Arts. His application was rejected, but Herbert Boeckl invited him to attend his evening nude drawing classes, which he did for several years. Resolutely resisting the primacy of abstraction in the second half of the twentieth century, Eisler hewed to figurative art, taking inspiration from Austrian modernism as well as the School of London. At the Vienna Secession, where he was president from 1968 until 1972, he initiated

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numerous exhibitions. He was also active as a teacher, with visiting professorships in Austria and abroad; from 1981 until 1996, he directed the painting and drawing classes at the Salzburg Summer Academy. Georg Eisler died in Vienna on January 15, 1998.

### **Exhibition catalogue**

#### ***Georg Eisler. Welt-Anschauung***

Ed. Sabine Breitwieser for the Museum der Moderne Salzburg. With essays by Susanne Berchtold, Beatrice von Bormann, Sabine Breitwieser / Barbara Herzog and an interview with Georg Eisler by Patrick Werkner

German edition

Hirmer Verlag, Munich

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**Director:** Sabine Breitwieser, Museum der Moderne Salzburg

**Curator:** Barbara Herzog, Curatorial Assistant; with Christina Penetsdorfer, Assistant Curator, and Tina Teufel, Curator, Museum der Moderne Salzburg

**Initiating Curator:** Beatrice von Bormann, Curator, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

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### **Visitor information**

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Tue to Sun 10am–6pm

Wed 10am–8pm

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