

A SOCIETY MIRRORED IN ITS TIMES: THIS FALL, THE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT WILL BE PRESENTING A MAJOR THEMATIC EXHIBITION ON ART DURING THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

SPLENDOR AND MISERY IN THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC FROM OTTO DIX TO JEANNE MAMMEN

OCTOBER 27, 2017–FEBRUARY 25, 2018

PRESS PREVIEW: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017, 11:00 A.M.

Social tensions, political struggles, and social upheavals, as well as artistic revolutions and innovations characterize the Weimar Republic. Beginning October 27, 2017, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt will be presenting German art from 1918 to 1933 in a major thematic exhibition. Direct, ironic, angry, accusatory, and often even prophetic works demonstrate the struggle for democracy and paint a picture of a society in the midst of crisis and transition. Many artists were moved by the problems of the age to mirror reality and everyday life in their search for a new realism or “naturalism.” They captured the stories of their contemporaries with an individual signature: the processing of World War I with depictions of maimed soldiers and “war profiteers,” public figures, the big city with its entertainment industry and increasing prostitution, the political unrest and economic chasms, as well as the role model of the New Woman, the debates about Articles 175 and 218 (regarding homosexuality and abortion), the social changes resulting from industrialization, and the growing enthusiasm for sports. The exhibition provides an impressive panorama of a period that even today, 100 years after its advent, has lost nothing of its relevance and potential for discussion.

The exhibition “Splendor and Misery in the Weimar Republic” is supported by the Gemeinnützige Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain.

Dr. Philipp Demandt, Director of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, comments on the exhibition: “This fall, with ‘Splendor and Misery in the Weimar Republic’ the Schirn is presenting a counterbalance to the exhibitions that have already been shown on many occasions on the Roaring Twenties. It takes a look at the unvarnished facts of life during the Weimar Republic. Some 200 works by 62 artists mercilessly hold a mirror to the society of the time. We see an era that clung to democracy by the skin of its teeth and in some respects is closer to us than we would like to believe.”

The focus of the exhibition lies on the unease of the era, which was reflected not only in the broad stylistic range of the age, but also in the topics and content. Arranged in thematic groups, it assembles portrayals and scenes from Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, Rostock, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Munich, and Hannover that have hitherto frequently been regarded separately. In this exhibition the Schirn unites some 200 paintings, prints, drawings, and sculptures by 62 famous artists and others who have been largely neglected to date, including Max Beckmann, Kate Diehn-Bitt, Otto Dix, Dodo, Conrad Felixmüller, George Grosz, Carl Grossberg, Hans and Lea Grundig, Karl Hubbuch, Lotte Laserstein, Alice Lex-Nerlinger, Elfriede Lohse-Wächtler, Jeanne Mammen, Oskar Nerlinger, Franz Radziwill, Christian Schad, Rudolf Schlichter, Georg Scholz, and Richard Ziegler. Historical films, magazines, posters, and photographs provide additional background information.

The Schirn was able to arrange for important loans from numerous museums and public and private collections in Germany and abroad for this presentation, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Neue Galerie in New York, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza Madrid, the

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Museum Moderne Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, the Nationalgalerie of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Albertinum of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, the Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus Munich, the Sprengel Museum Hannover, the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, the Folkwang Museum Essen, and the Stiftung Museum Kunstpalast Düsseldorf.

CATALOG *Glanz und Elend in der Weimarer Republik / Splendor and Misery in the Weimar Republic*, edited by Ingrid Pfeiffer, with a foreword by Philipp Demandt, essays by Andreas Braune, Karoline Hille, Annelie Lütgens, Stéphanie Moeller, Olaf Peters, Dorothy Price, as well as Martina Weinland and Ingrid Pfeiffer; and including artists' biographies and a chronology of the Weimar Republic. German and English editions, each ca. 300 pages, ca. 260 illustrations, 29 x 24 cm, hardcover; graphic design: Sabine Frohmader; Hirmer Verlag, Munich, ISBN 978-3-7774-2932-8 (German), ISBN 978-3-7774-2933-5 (English).

DIGITORIAL The Schirn will be providing a Digitalorial to accompany the exhibition. The free digital educational program is responsive and will be available in German and English. The Digitalorial is funded by the Aventis Foundation and will be available online at www.schirn.de/digitalorial from mid-September 2017.

BOOKLET *Glanz und Elend in der Weimarer Republik*; introduction to the Exhibition, edited by the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt. It is about 40 pages in length and presents the most important works in the exhibition as well as the historical and sociopolitical context. German edition, from 12 years; € 7.50 per copy, school class set €1.00 per booklet (from 15 copies).

VENUE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, Römerberg, 60311 Frankfurt **DURATION** October 27, 2017–February 25, 2018 **INFORMATION** www.schirn.de **E-MAIL** welcome@schirn.de **TELEPHONE** +49.69.29 98 82-0 **FAX** +49.69.29 98 82-240 **ADMISSION** €12, reduced €9; free for children under the age of eight **ADVANCED BOOKING AND EARLY BIRD TICKETS** Tickets are available online at www.schirn.de/tickets; the first 1,000 tickets cost €10 instead of €12 **GUIDED TOUR BOOKING** Individual or group tours can be booked by calling +49.69.29 98 82-0, or by sending an e-mail to fuehrungen@schirn.de **AUDIO TOUR** An audio tour is available to accompany the exhibition, spoken by Volker Bruch **CURATOR** Dr. Ingrid Pfeiffer **CURATORIAL ASSISTANT** Maria Sitte **CULTURAL PARTNER** HR2

THE EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain

SOCIAL MEDIA The Schirn communicates in the social web **HASHTAGS** #GlanzUndElend #Schirn **FACEBOOK, TWITTER, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM, PINTEREST, SNAPCHAT** [schirnsnaps](https://www.instagram.com/schirnsnaps) **SCHIRN-MAGAZIN** www.schirn-mag.com

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