

THE KLEWAN COLLECTION

Portrait(s) of Modernism

Orangery in the Lower Belvedere
17 February 2017 to 11 June 2017



Armand François Joseph Henrion
Self-portrait as Pierrot, undated
Oil on wood 18 x 14 cm
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A total of 193 works by over fifty artists, on display in the Orangery at the Lower Belvedere, testify to Austrian gallerist Helmut Klewan's passion for collecting. The exhibition runs from 17 February to 11 June 2017. Over the past four decades, Klewan has amassed an art collection of around six thousand works. Stylistically these range from important classic modern artworks, through Surrealism and Art Brut to key examples of post-war art. Reflecting the collector's own predilection, the exhibition's main focus is on portraits by the various artists.

Helmut Klewan is regarded as a major ambassador for Austrian art in Germany and his exhibitions promoted the international acclaim of stellar artists such as Maria Lassnig or Arnulf Rainer. The Belvedere is now paying tribute to Klewan by presenting highlights from his collection.

"The exhibition not only brings an important private collection into the public eye but is also a portrait of modernism in all its diversity. A walk through the Orangery is thus transformed into a journey of discovery through the art of the twentieth century," says Stella Rollig, Director General of the Belvedere. Curator of the exhibition, Harald Krejci continues: *"The Dada-style self-portrait by Man Ray encounters the Pierrot depictions by Armand Henrion. Auguste Rodin's bust of Honoré de Balzac is juxtaposed with Ludwig Meidner's drawn portrait of Wieland Herzfelde and a drawing by Alberto Giacometti meets an overpainting by Arnulf Rainer. Helmut Klewan has his own view of art and is little swayed by the mainstream and general artistic tastes."*

Klewan amassed his collection during a career as a gallerist in Vienna and Munich. It is easy to identify his favourites today: he owns one of the largest bodies of works by Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti in the German-speaking region. The collector also staged the first exhibition of the artist's work in Germany. Also among his favourite classic modern artists are André Masson, Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, Giorgio de Chirico, and Jean Dubuffet. Meanwhile, Christian Ludwig Attersee, Günter Brus, Maria Lassnig, Arnulf Rainer, and Hans Staudacher all feature prominently among the contemporary artists. Klewan tracked down masterpieces irrespective of time and place, aiming to position them in a dialogue with other artworks. His interest in works frequently scorned as kitsch in art circles is another key aspect of his collection.

Helmut Klewan also made a name for himself as a DJ. His regular artist festivals were legendary events on the art scene. This May, visitors can gain their own impressions of Klewan's DJ-ing skills as he stages a revival of his artist festivals at Twentyone in the 21er Haus.

The exhibition catalogue describes twenty-seven of the collector's favourite works and his relationship to the work and the artist. The author Karin Koschkar, a freelance curator who has been studying the Klewan collection for a number of years, compares it to a type of "cabinet of wonder". The twenty-seven highlights were chosen for various reasons: sometimes they reflect an important position, sometimes they represent a larger body of work; they could recall phases in the collector's life, or shed light on him as a person.

Three artists and their works are cited here by way of example:

Maria Lassnig, Traum (Dream, 1964):

Maria Lassnig is regarded as the greatest post-war Austrian female painter but did not receive her due recognition until very late. Her self-portraits illustrate her deepest feelings. To express these, she reinterpreted colour, employing it to capture bodily sensations. Forms also morphed to reflect emotions rather than represent their actual appearance, explaining why the figures in her works are usually distorted.

"Thirty years of friendship with Maria Lassnig was like a battle. You had to coax every picture out of her. She would rather give me oil paintings on consignment than sell them to me, finding the prospect of a painting never being returned intolerable. Fortunately, she lived to the age of almost ninety-five and could experience her world fame," said Helmut Klewan about his relationship with the artist.

André Masson, Scène érotique (1928)

André Masson belonged to the inner circle of Surrealists around André Breton, before leaving the group to join forces with Georges Bataille and other like-minded artists. He combined various techniques in his works, used the emerging method of *écriture automatique*, and also experimented with different materials.

"I bought this picture when Masson was still alive - it was 1987 and it set a new record of 150,000 pounds net. The auction at Sotheby's was very dramatic; I kept wanting to stop bidding. The result was the highest ever price for a work by Masson. It is an early masterpiece of 1928, when he was a studio neighbour of Joan Miró in Paris. You can see that from the painting. Masson lived for another one or two weeks after I purchased the picture," said Helmut Klewan.

Alberto Giacometti, Portrait de Patricia Matisse (1947)

After the Second World War, Giacometti, who is famous for his sculptures, increasingly explored the mediums of drawing and painting, always aiming to illustrate reality as he saw it and not as perceived through learned ways of seeing. Representing distance and proportionality were recurring challenges in his work.

"I exhibited many artists at my gallery in Munich for the first time: Bill Copley, Maria Lassnig, and Giacometti. I always joked: 'This is the first Giacometti exhibition in Munich for two hundred years!' But I only sold one of the oil paintings," said Klewan.

LIST OF ARTISTS

Christian Ludwig Attersee	Uwe Lausen
Joannis Avramidis	Bertrand Lavier
Francis Bacon	Jean-Jaques Lebel
Mary Bauermeister	Piero Manzoni
Max Beckmann	J. Masopust
Hans Bellmer	André Masson
Joseph Beuys	Mara Mattuschka
Louise Bourgeois	Ludwig Meidner
Victor Brauner	Henri Michaux
Günter Brus	Otto Muehl
Bernard Buffet	Hermann Nitsch
Gaston Chaissac	Emil Nolde
William „Bill“ Nelson Copley	Heinrich Nüßlein
Salvador Dalí	Meret Oppenheim
Giorgio de Chirico	Robin Paige
Eugène-Nestor de Kermadec	Pablo Picasso
Otto Dix	Walter Pichler
Jean Dubuffet	Alexander Pock
Max Ernst, Maxim Fomenko	Arnulf Rainer
Johanna Freise	Man Ray
Paul Gauguin	Auguste Rodin
Alberto Giacometti	Anton Romako
Regina Götz	Medardo Rosso
George Grosz	Dieter Roth
Albert Paris Gütersloh	Gerhard Rühm
Al Hansen	Rudolf Schlichter
Armand Francois Henrion	Kurt Schwitters
Maurice Henry	Louis Soutter
Edmund Kalb	Heinz Stangl
Max Klinger	Hans Staudacher
Alfred Kubin	Leopold Survage
Michael Langer	Brett Whiteley
Maria Lassnig	Fritz Wotruba
	Hans Zatzka

EXHIBITIONS BY HELMUT KLEWAN

1970 Founding of Galerie Klewan in Vienna, Dorotheergasse

Exhibitions in Vienna (selection)

1971 Österreichische Malerei 1885–1925
Arnulf Rainer Übermalungen
Holleggha, Mikl, Prachensky, Rainer

1972 Heinz Frank, Kurt Schwitters und die 20er Jahre, Ungarische Malerei des frühen 20. Jahrhunderts, Carl Moll, Alfred Kubin, Tina Blau, Attersee

1973 Hermann Nitsch Relikte und Schüttbilder, El Lissitzky Sieg über die Sonne, Max Ernst

1974 Attersee Serviettenallerlei, Moholy-Nagy und die 20er Jahre

1976 Kurt Schwitters, Joseph Beuys

1977 William Blake und John Martin

1978 Attersee Bekleckst

1983 Jean Dubuffet

1984 Hermann Nitsch Zum 3-Tage-Fest, Loftus Etienne Rasta-Vienna-Split

1977 Opening of Galerie Klewan in Munich, Maximilianstraße

Exhibitions in Munich (selection)

1978 Arnulf Rainer Übermalungen, Cy Twombly, Bruno Gironcoli, Attersee 1964–1978, Hermann Nitsch, Gerhard Rühm

1979 Kuriose Gesichter, Walter Pichler Skulptur „Drei Vögel“, Arnulf Rainer & Dieter Roth Misch- und Trennkunst, Selten gezeigte Kunst Berliner Gemeinschaftsarbeiten von

Attersee, G. Brus, H. Nitsch, D. Roth, G. Rühm, D. Steiger, O. Wiener

1980 Hans Staudacher Skripturales Informel 1956–1964, Kurt Kocherscheidt Neue Arbeiten, Attersee Der Slawe ist die herrlichste Farbe, Deutsche Grafik und Zeichnungen der 20er Jahre von Beckmann, Dix, Dressler, Ehmsen, Felixmüller, Gangolf, Gleichmann, Gramatté, Grosz, Hubbuch, Kleinschmidt, Kretschmar, Schlichter u. a., Joseph Beuys – Arnulf Rainer – Cy Twombly

1981 Bernhard Johannes Blume – Gerhard Rühm, Hermann Nitsch, Maria Lassnig, Bill Copley, Arnulf Rainer

1982 Attersee & Günter Brus Gemeinschaftsbilder, Attersee Das Traumzweit („Treibholzphantasie“). Malerei 1981–1982, Dieter Roth Opas Salat. Alte und Neue Arbeiten, Zeichnungen der Galeriebesucher – ein Environment von Helmut Klewan, Triumph des Herzens Salonmalerei & Kitsch & Kuriosa

1983 Kurt Kocherscheidt Neue Arbeiten, Zwölf Österreicher: Attersee, Brus, Frank, Gironcoli, Kocherscheidt, Lassnig, Nitsch, Pichler, Rainer, Rühm, Staudacher, Steiger, Buntes Treiben Deutsche Zeichner der 20er Jahre; Paris 1950 Dubuffet, Giacometti, Masson; Picabia, Beuys – Nitsch – Rainer Bilder, Objekte, Zeichnungen; Die Damen des Paul Kleinschmidt (1883–1949)

1984 André Thomkins, Vorläufer und Tendenzen des Informel, Hermann Nitsch Zum Drei-Tage-Fest, Arnulf Rainer Das Berliner Konzert, Turi Werkner

1985 Klaus Walterspiel, Paul Renner Bauen, Brauen, Sauen. Assemblagen, Bilder, Zeichnungen, Eros Teutonicus Bilder und Grafik des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts, Die Sechziger Jahre Attersee, Beuys, Brus, Copley, Fautrier, Fontana, Graubner, Lassnig, Masson, Michaux, Rainer, Roth, Rühm, Staudacher, Wewerka Margarethe Held Mediumistische Kunst 1950

1986 Maria Lassnig – Arnulf Rainer
Selbstdarstellungen, Jean Fautrier, André
Masson, Die Siebziger Jahre Attersee, Blume,
Brus, Lassnig, Nitsch, Pichler, Rainer, Roth,
Rühm, Twombly, Kunst-Kitsch-Konsum – Ein
Stimmungsbild, Hans Staudacher, Skripturales
Informel 1956–1968

1987 Alberto Giacometti Der Mensch sich
selbst ausgeliefert, Der Blick aus dem
Rahmen/Gemalte Fotografien Portraitmalerei
seit 1840, Zum 10jährigen Jubiläum in
München: Gestalt und Erscheinung Attersee,
Brus, Copley, Dubuffet, Etienne, Fautrier,
Giacometti, Lassnig, Masson, Pichler, Rainer,
Schwitters u. a. m., Attersee Frühe Bilder
1967–1974, Loftus Etienne Rainer-
Bearbeitungen

1988 Cy Twombly, Paul Renner, Tempi passati:
Nitsch, Rainer, Staudacher, Alberto Giacometti,
Al Hansen

1989 André Masson, Fred W. Ayer
Bernhard Johannes Blume, Grüß Gott. Figuren
ihre Betrachter erwartend, Maria Lassnig,
Christine Linde

1990 William N. Copley, Michael Langer
Jean Dubuffet, Friedrich G. Scheuer, Alberto
Giacometti

1991 Michael Langer, William N. Copley, Al
Hansen, **transfer to Klenzestraße**, Hans
Staudacher

1992 Die sechziger Jahre, Gerhard Rühm,
Dieter Roth, Martina Kügler, Maria Lassnig, Mit
Lust und Liebe/Kindheit und Eros, Francis
Bacon, Giorgio de Chirico, Jean Dubuffet

1993 Hans Staudacher zum 70. Geburtstag,
Michael Langer, Attersee, Alberto Giacometti,
Robin Page, Al Hansen

1994 Uwe Lausen, Martina Kügler, Christine
Linder, Loftus Etienne, Doris Hadersdorfer,
Heinrich Nüsslein, Margarethe Held, Heinz
Frank, Arnulf Rainer TRRR, Alberto Giacometti,
James Lord

1995 Lovis Corinth, Gangolf – Gleichmann –
Gramatté, Johanna Freise, Attersee, Zeit im
Bild Zum 25jährigen Jubiläum der Galerie,
Langer – Lassnig – Lausen Aspekte der
sechziger Jahre, Jean Dubuffet, Jean Fautrier,
André Masson zum 100. Geburtstag

1996 Doris Hadersdorfer, Kirill Lilbock, Hans
Staudacher, Joachim Jung, Pablo Picasso
Schriftstellerportraits, Attersee Retrospektive
1964–1996, Francis Bacon, Heinz Stangl,
Michael Langer, Johanna Freise, Katharina von
Werz, H. C. Artmann Blindzeichnungen

1997 Edgar Ende, Alberto Giacometti, Nam
June Paik – Arnulf Rainer – Dieter Roth –
Gerhard Rühm, Pablo Picasso, Franz Hubmann
Besuch bei Picasso, Wolfgang Müller-Jakob

1998 Hans Staudacher und Rudolf Wachter
zum 75. Geburtstag, Anselm Glück, Pablo
Picasso, Jean Dubuffet, Wunderkammer
Österreich, Selbstportraits, Johanna Freise, Al
Hansen, William N. Copley, Wolfgang Müller-
Jakob

1999 Maria Lassnig, Francis Bacon, André
Masson, Alberto Giacometti, Franz Hubmann
Künstlerportraits

Closing of the Gallery in Munich

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	THE KLEWAN COLLECTION Portrait(s) of Modernism
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