

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY SPOTLIGHTS WORKS BY ERNST LUDWIG KIRCHNER

AS PART OF GERMAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Washington, D.C. -- Ernst Ludwig Kirchner: Paintings, Drawings, and Prints, highlighting more than forty major works of art by this German expressionist master, will be on view from May 3 through August 16, 1992 at the National Gallery of Art. The exhibition will run simultaneously in the East Building with Käthe Kollwitz, which features approximately one hundred prints, drawings, and sculpture by the German artist renowned for the powerful social content of her imagery.

Both exhibitions are part of the "Tribute to Germany," a Washington-area cultural festival coordinated by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and supported by Robert Bosch GmbH, Daimler-Benz, The Deutsche Bank Group, Mannesmann AG, Miles Inc., Siemens, Thyssen AG, and The Federal Republic of Germany. Lufthansa German Airlines has provided transportation support for the festival.

"This celebration bridging the arts provides a timely opportunity for reexamining the work of two quite different German artists active in the early part of this century," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art. "It also underscores the Gallery's commitment to collect and display German art of the twentieth century."

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While the Käthe Kollwitz exhibit presents an extensive overview of the artist's achievements through rarely seen works borrowed from around the world, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner: Paintings, Drawings, and Prints offers a more concentrated survey drawn from the Gallery's holdings and from eight private American collections.

The twelve paintings and sixteen drawings, watercolors, and pastels in the exhibition will survey Kirchner's art, along with thirteen major woodcuts, lithographs, and drypoints. Celebrated as one of the twentieth century's greatest graphic artists, Kirchner experimented with a variety of printmaking techniques. He is acclaimed for the creative, direct way he used the distinctive texture and characteristics of different media as part of his designs.

Born in 1880, Kirchner was a founding member of the artist's group in Dresden called Die Brücke (The Bridge). Although they espoused no specific aesthetic program, the young artists were passionately committed to artistic freedom, breaking with the past, and portraying the contemporary world around them. From 1909 until 1913, when the group disbanded, its members created remarkably original paintings--nudes, landscapes, portraits--characterized by simplified forms and intense colors.

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Among the paintings from the Brücke period in the exhibition are the richly impastoed Two Nudes (1907) that suggests the early influence of Van Gogh and the brilliantly colored Green Houses in Dresden (1909/1910). Otto and Maschka Mueller in the Studio (1911), the portrait of Kirchner's fellow Brücke artist and his wife, will be displayed to reveal on the reverse side a painting of Kirchner's young model Marcella. Important graphic works on view from this period include brilliantly colored pastels as well as his famous color lithographs Russian Dancers (1909) and Performer Bowing (1909).

The artist moved to Berlin in 1911 and responded intensely to the life of the great city. A unique pairing of two major paintings of cabaret dancers, one from 1911 the other from 1913, will be joined by Kirchner's greatest pastel, Two Streetwalkers (1914), as well as his most famous woodcut, Five Tarts (1914).

When the first World War broke out, Kirchner enlisted in the field artillery. Because of a mental and physical breakdown, he was discharged in 1915 and went to Switzerland to recuperate. Kirchner lived and worked near Davos until his death in 1938.

There he painted in a variety of tightly structured geometric styles, such as in The Visit (1922) and in his sympathetic portayal of Swiss peasant life, The Reaper (1919/1920), both on view. Three paintings and several prints and drawings are included in the exhibition from these later years, when Kirchner's style evolved from the angular, tension-filled shapes of the Berlin period to broad patches of brilliant color and blocky forms, conveying a greater sense of tranquility.

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National Gallery of Art

Washington, D.C.

ERNST LUDWIG KIRCHNER: PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PRINTS EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

- o black and white photograph available
- * color transparency available

PRINTS

1. Reclining Nude, c. 1905
lithograph, .369 x .449 (14 1/2 x 17 5/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob Kainen
Collection
2. Port Scene, 1908
woodcut, .546 x .423 (21 1/2 x 16 5/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection
3. Female Nude, 1908
woodcut on blotting paper, .524 x .419 (20 5/8 x 16 1/2)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob Kainen
Collection
4. Performer Bowing, 1909
o color lithograph, .516 x .448 (20 5/16 x 17 5/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob Kainen
Collection, Gift in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of
the National Gallery of Art
5. Russian Dancers, 1909
color lithograph, .423 x .496 (16 5/8 x 19 1/2)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob Kainen
Collection
6. Three Bathers by Stones, 1913
o color lithograph, .501 x .651 (19 3/4 x 25 5/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob Kainen
Collection
7. Five Tarts, 1914
o woodcut on blotting paper, .520 x .390 (21 1/2 x 15 1/4)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob
Kainen Collection
8. Lovers in the Morning, 1915
lithograph, .502 x .614 (19 3/4 x 24 1/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Mr. and Mrs.
Jacob Kainen and Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

9. The Blond Painter Stirner, 1919
color woodcut on oriental paper,
.696 x .411 (27 7/16 x 16 3/16)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob
Kainen Collection, Gift in Honor of the 50th Anniversary
of the National Gallery of Art
10. Mountains with a Mountain Hut, 1921
woodcut touched with ink, .448 x .702 (17 5/8 x 27 5/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob
Kainen Collection, Gift in Honor of the 50th Anniversary
of the National Gallery of Art
11. Work at a Round Table, 1923
o woodcut, .462 x .652 (18 1/8 x 25 3/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Rosenwald Collection
12. Recumbent Cow, 1929
woodcut on blotting paper, .535 x .406 (21 1/16 x 16)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Mrs. Robert
A. Hauslohner
13. Mary Wigman's Dance, 1933
o woodcut touched with ink, .532 x .413 (21 x 16 1/4)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob
Kainen Collection, Gift in Honor of the 50th Anniversary
of the National Gallery of Art

PAINTINGS

14. Two Nudes, 1907
o oil, .196 x .654 (77 1/4 x 25 3/4)
* National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Wilhemina
and Wallace F. Holladay and Ruth and Jacob Kainen
15. Fränzi with Bow and Arrow, 1909-1911
oil, .700 x .800 (27 5/8 x 31 7/8)
Private Collection
16. Green Houses in Dresden, 1909/1910
o oil, .560 x .900 cm. (22 x 35 1/2)
* National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift (Partial and
Promised) of Ruth and Jacob Kainen, in Honor of the
Fiftieth Anniversary of the National Gallery
17. Two Girls under Umbrella, 1910
* oil, .950 x .810 (37 1/2 x 31 7/8)
Arnold A. Saltzman Family
18. Otto and Maschka Mueller in the Studio, 1911
o [verso: Seated Marcella in Mauve, 1910]
oil, .800 x .700 (31 1/2 x 27 5/8)
Ludwig and Rosy Fischer Collection

19. Six Dancing Girls, 1911
oil, .950 x .125 (37 1/2 x 49 1/4)
Ludwig and Rosy Fischer Collection
20. Woman with Dog I, 1912
o oil, .991 x .609 (39 x 24)
Ludwig and Rosy Fischer Collection
21. Three Dancers, 1913
oil, .700 x .803 (27 5/8 x 31 5/8)
Private Collection
22. Portrait of Gewecke, 1914
oil, .654 x .470 (25 3/4 x 18 1/2)
Ludwig and Rosy Fischer Collection
23. The Reaper, 1919/1920
oil, .100 x .750 (39 3/8 x 29 5/8)
Private Collection, New York
24. The Visit, 1922
o oil, .120 x .120 (47 1/4 x 47 1/4)
* National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift (Partial and
Promised) of Ruth and Jacob Kainen, in Honor of the
Fiftieth Anniversary of the National Gallery
25. Recumbent Cow, 1928
oil, .545 x .475 (21 1/2 x 18 3/4)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen

DRAWINGS

26. Two Nudes Reclining on a Sofa, 1908-1909
pastel, .360 x .460 (14 1/2 x 18 1/2)
Private Collection
27. Houses in Dresden with Strolling People, 1909
charcoal, .325 x .445 (12 3/4 x 17 3/4)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen
28. Dodo and Older Woman Reclining Before a Mirror, 1909
pen and ink, .338 x .432 (13 5/16 x 17)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce
Fund
29. Two Nudes Standing, 1909
pastel, .889 x .686 (35 x 27)
Mimi Saltzman, New York
30. Park Landscape, 1909
o charcoal, .331 x .436 (13 1/16 x 17 3/16)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Epstein Family Fund

31. Fränzi on Roller Skates with Marcella in the Studio, 1910-1911
black crayon, .440 x .346 (17 3/8 x 13 3/4)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen
32. Two Nudes in a Landscape, 1911
watercolor and crayon over graphite
.271 x .341 (10 11/16 x 13 7/16)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen
33. Bather Lying on the Beach Among Rocks, 1912
o reed pen and black ink, .461 x .589 (18 1/8 x 23 3/16)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund
34. Bather by Rocks with a Distant Sailboat, 1912-1913
black crayon and watercolor
.434 x .318 (17 1/16 x 12 1/2)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kainen in honor of Charles Parkhurst
35. Two Bathers on the Fehmarn Coast, 1912-1913
reed pen and black ink, .583 x .458 (23 x 18)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen
36. Three Bathers Among Rocks, 1913-1914
black crayon, .480 x .377 (18 7/8 x 14 7/8)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Ruth and Jacob Kainen Collection
37. Two Street Walkers, 1914
pastel, .606 x .506 (26 x 20)
Ludwig and Rosy Fischer Collection
38. Nude Woman in a Tub, c. 1923
reed pen and black ink with colored crayons,
.522 x .360 (20 5/8 x 14 3/16)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen
39. Two Nudes in the Forest, 1925
colored crayons, .515 x .372 (20 1/4 x 14 7/8)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen
40. Man on the Street (Self-Portrait), 1928
watercolor over black crayon,
.464 x .376 (18 1/4 x 14 3/4)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen
41. Self-Portrait in Studio, 1936
black crayon, .499 x .340 (19 5/8 x 13 3/8)
Ruth and Jacob Kainen