Exhibition Highlights 2020

WE CAPITALISTS. From Zero to Turbo
13 March to 12 July 2020

Capitalism is far more than simply an economic system. It is a social order that has shaped our thinking, perception and existence for centuries. Approaching the topic from a cultural and historical perspective, the exhibition examines the fundamental characteristics of Capitalism – rationalisation, individualisation, accumulation, money and investment as well as typically Capitalist dynamics such as unrestricted growth and creative crises. In a way, this ‘DNA of Capitalism’ has long become part of our own DNA. How does Capitalism shape our identity and history, for example in terms of our individuality, sense of time, and attitude to material possessions? Can or must we change it – and do we want to?

With a selection of objects taken from the realms of art, history and everyday popular culture, the exhibition sheds light on a complex subject of great social relevance that touches each and every one of us.

Educational programme in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

MAX KLININGER
4 September 2020 to 3 January 2021

Max Klinger (1857–1920) is one of the most idiosyncratic artists of his time. Inspired by Wagner’s idea of the gesamtkunstwerk, the late Romanticist artist and pioneer of German Symbolism sought to overcome the division of the creative disciplines and to fuse painting, sculpture, architecture and even music into a single harmonious whole. His monumental Beethoven statue of 1902, created for the Vienna Secession exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the composer’s death, will go on display in Bonn towards the end of the Beethoven anniversary year of 2020.

Klinger is one of the most controversial artists of the past 100 years. Fervently admired in his own lifetime, he was co-opted by the Nazis and fell into benign oblivion in the post-war period. The retrospective marking the 100th anniversary of Klinger’s death in 2020 sets out to open the way for the long overdue reassessment of the artist’s work.

In cooperation with the Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig

JERUSALEM. Longing for the Holy City
27 November 2020 to 28 March 2021

The biblical city of Jerusalem has a history that goes back several thousand years. A melting pot of different cultures and religions, it is marked by symbols and myths. The singularity and complexity of the city rests first and foremost on the shared history of the three Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – and their holy sites. The city’s significance as a religious centre, as a site of hope and dreams of salvation, has made it a phenomenon. Few cities have had as many depictions devoted to them – many of them capturing an idealised vision rather than a real place.

The exhibition showcases the countless images of Jerusalem in European art and cultural history and examines the multifarious religious and artistic ideas, political dreams and scientific findings that gave rise to them.

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