

Kunst Museum Winterthur

Media Release

Women. Images of Women Throughout the Centuries
February 24th till June 17th, 2018
Kunst Museum Winterthur | Reinhart am Stadtgarten

Media Conference

Friday, February 23rd, 2018, 11 a.m.

Kunst Museum Winterthur | Reinhart am Stadtgarten, Museumstrasse 52, 8400 Winterthur

The image of a woman is a man's image of a woman. This at first sight simple but in its consequence all the more far-reaching statement, applies to advertising, fashion, and the entertainment industry as well as the position of women in a social and political context and equally as strongly influences the history of art.

Images of women have mostly been projections by male artists, created for a (predominantly) male art public. The depiction of women has always been subject to a canon of stereotypes that distinctly reflected the social conventions at that time and, thus, document the respective aesthetic ideals: Maria or muse? saint or *femme fatale*? For centuries, the image of women in art has oscillated between these clichés. Thus, a largely male-dominated perspective of women has been preserved from the old masters via Pierre Bonnard and Félix Vallotton until well into the 20th century. Historically, these stereotypical concepts of wishful male thinking were contrasted by a mere few pictorial compositions by female artists.

Since the 1960s, this disproportion has begun to change though: as a counterpart to these one-dimensional role assignments, contemporary artists such as Pipilotti Rist, Sylvie Fleury, and Candice Breitz have made crucial contributions towards the formulation of a new and lustful image of women. Their works reveal that the confrontation with the image of the female touches upon fundamental questions of the constitution of identity, which are of central importance in contemporary discourse.

The thematic presentation of *Women* does not follow a strict chronology but – through styles, genres, and epochs – brings a wide variety of women's portraits into an exciting dialogue: from the proud women of the bourgeoisie to the lascivious nude models of the 20th century – interspersed with strong interventions by contemporary artists.

Works by, among others, Bartholomew Bruyn, Master of the Holy Blood, Arnold Böcklin, Pierre Bonnard, Candice Breitz, Edgar Degas, Anselm Feuerbach, Sylvie Fleury, Nan Goldin, Anton Graff, Pieter de Hooch, Aristide Maillol, Adolph Menzel, Pipilotti Rist, Louis-Léopold Robert, Olga Titus, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Fritz von Uhde, Félix Vallotton, and Edouard Vuillard.

As part of the media tour of *Women*, you will also be provided with an insight into the exhibitions of *The Female Touch - Portrait Miniatures* and *Rembrandt Depicting Surgery*.

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Opening

Friday, February 23rd, 2018, 6.30 p.m.

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Speakers: Jacqueline Fehr, Government Councillor, and Konrad Bitterli, Director, and Andrea Lutz, Curator. At the same time, the exhibitions *The Female Touch - Portrait Miniatures* and *Rembrandt Depicting Surgery* will be opened.

Supporting Programme

“Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?”

Lecture on the role of women in the art of Tiziana Carraro

Thursday, 19.04., 6.30 p.m.

Michèle Rothen in conversation with Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen

Thursday, 14.06., 6.30 p.m.

Museum concert followed by a guided tour

Sunday, 25.02., 10.30 a.m.

Pour... Music dedicated to women by men. Piano music and songs by Caccini, Beethoven, Schumann, Debussy, Jolivet, Ligeti, and Kurtag as well as letters and poems to women.

Public Guided Tours

Thursday, 6.30 p.m., 08.03., 15.03., 26.04., 03.05., 24.05., 07.06.

Sunday, 11.30 a.m., 08.04., 29.04., 27.05.

Guided tour with Konrad Bitterli, Director

Sunday, March 18th, 11.30 a.m.

KunstGenuss – ArtEnjoyment

Wednesday, February 28th, 12.15 - 1.00 p.m., with Andrea Lutz, Curator

International Women's Day

08.03 Free admission for women

Pictures and information about the exhibition

www.kmw.ch/presse

Contact

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