



NEUERSCHEINUNG IM KEHRER VERLAG

Kirchner Museum Davos
**Ernst Ludwig Kirchner &
 Oskar Kokoschka**

Edited by Régine Bonnefoit und Thorsten Sadowsky
 Texts by Régine Bonnefoit, Wolfgang Henze, Thorsten Sadowsky,
 Heinz Spielmann
 Designed by Susanne Bax, Berlin
 Hardcover
 21,5 x 27,5 cm
 264 pages
 98 color- and 100 b/w ills.
 GERMAN
 ISBN 978-3-86828-846-9
 Euro 39,90

The exhibition, for the first time, juxtaposes two of the most important protagonists of German and Austrian Expressionism.

For the first time Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880–1938) and Oskar Kokoschka (1886–1980), the protagonists of German and Austrian Expressionism, are presented side by side in an exhibition. Several points of intersection exist between the biographies of both artists: the Secession style, or Art nouveau, of their artistic beginnings; the places in which they were active, such as Berlin and Dresden; and their stigmatisation as “degenerate artists” by the Nazis in 1937. To underpin their reputations as pioneers of expressionist art, both Kirchner and Kokoschka sought to pre-date their early works. Moreover, Switzerland plays a very important role in both their lives. This is borne out by the fact that both the estate of Kirchner and that of Kokoschka are located in Switzerland.

Kokoschka established his reputation as one of the foremost portrait painters of Expressionism early on when, through the agency of Adolf Loos, he painted brilliant portraits of tubercular aristocrats at the Mont Blanc pulmonary sanatorium in Leysin, Switzerland, in January 1910. Kirchner’s 1913–14 paintings of Berlin street scenes, in turn, are considered the culmination of his early career, as he, like few other Modernist artists, was able to artistically capture the seductions and impositions of life in the big city. Both artists shaped and controlled their public image throughout their lives. Kokoschka generously provided his early biographers with pre-selected information about his life and work on condition that said information was adopted verbatim.

Kirchner invented a fictitious French art expert under the pen name Louis de Marsalle and tried to influence the reception of his work in this way.

The two artists respected and regarded one another highly. In 1928 Kirchner wrote to the art historian Will Grohmann: “In the search for the form of our time we are certainly close to one another, just as Klee, Kandinsky, Kokoschka, Nolde. It is difficult to say where the commonalities lie (...). Where the grotesque starts to become serious again, beyond the visible form, we join hands.”

The exhibition assembles drawings, watercolours, prints and paintings by both artists. It focuses on works from the period from 1905 until 1938. A joint project of the Kirchner Museum Davos and the Fondation Oskar Kokoschka.

Exhibition

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner & Oskar Kokoschka
 Kirchner Museum, Davos, CH
 19.11.2017 – 22.04. 2018

For press images and permissions, please contact the Kirchner Museum Davos:

Frau Dolores Mark
 Verwaltung/PR/Medien
 Tel.: +41 81 410 63 03
 E-Mail: dolores.mark@kirchnermuseum.ch

For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher’s press office:

Sandra Dürdoth, sandra.duerdoth@kehrerverlag.com
 Katharina Windfuhr, katharina.windfuhr@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Fon +49 (0)6221/649 20-25 | Fax +49 (0)6221/64920-20
 www.kehrerverlag.com