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## *Louis de Marsalle* Visite à Davos

Edited by Thorsten Sadowsky, Kirchner Museum Davos

Text by Louis de Marsalle and Thorsten Sadowsky

Designed by Susanne Bax

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### Truth or fiction? On the trail of the legendary art critic Louis de Marsalle alias Ernst Ludwig Kirchner

»Who was Louis de Marsalle?« With this question Thorsten Sadowsky, former director of the Kirchner Museum Davos, begins his preface. He reports on a manuscript that had fallen into his hands and was ostensibly written by the French poet, art critic, and physician Louis de Marsalle. The text reads like an excerpt from an autobiography, whereby it is left up to the reader whether he wishes to believe the narration.

Louis de Marsalle was a pseudonym of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, under which he published writings. Through this fictional character, he not only conducted smart self-marketing, but also created an alter ego for himself, whom he could send on imaginary journeys to Africa, while he himself led a secluded life in the Swiss mountains. This fictional travelogue tells the incredible life story of the mysterious Frenchman. The text is illustrated with portraits of the fictional character de Marsalle, photographed by Stephan Bösch.

»When I arrived in Davos-Frauenkirch, I found Kirchner rolled up in his Caucasian rug. He always did that when he was at risk of losing himself and wanted to travel back into the safety and comfort of his memories. I jolted him out of his Dodo reveries and told him about my life in Paris.<sup>11</sup> One word led to the next and before long the idea came up that I should write about Kirchner's art in the future.«

– excerpt from "The Unbelievable Story of Louis de Marsalle"  
by Louis de Marsalle

**Thorsten Sadowsky** (b. 1961) was director of the *Kirchner Museum Davos* for the last five years and just transferred to the *Museum der Moderne Salzburg*. Before he has been director of the *Kunsthalle Aarhus* and founding director of the *Museum Kunst der Westküste* on the German island Föhr.

#### Exhibition

*Ernst Ludwig Kirchner – Erträumte Reisen*

Bundeskunsthalle Bonn

16.11.2018 – 17.02.2019

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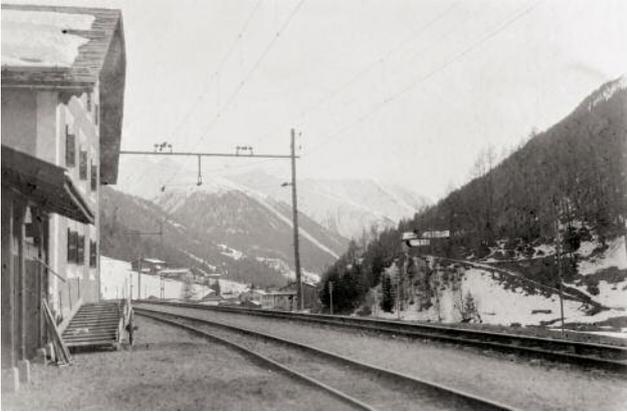
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2\_Ernst Ludwig Kirchner  
*Davos Train Station* (detail), 1925  
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