Robert Delaunay and The City of Lights recognizes Delaunay’s unwavering commitment to color in painting to convey form, depth, light and movement, while highlighting how the modern metropolis of Paris often provided the inspiration for his imagery and pictorial research.

In addition to presenting works from some of his most famous series of paintings, such as that of the Eiffel Tower, the book also includes portraits Delaunay made of his artistic milieu during the 1920s. Portraits of the poets Philippe Soupault, Tristan Tzara, and several fashionable socialites, wearing ensembles designed by the artist Sonia Terk-Delaunay, are shown.

For the exhibition Robert Delaunay and The City of Lights, major museums and private collections in Europe and America have assisted Simonetta Fraquelli, a freelance curator specializing in early 20th-century Parisian art, by lending some of their Delaunay masterpieces which, for conservation reasons, are rarely permitted to travel. They include the Musée national d’art moderne, Centre Pompidou in Paris, the van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

This scholarly and lavishly illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition at the Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland, and includes newly commissioned essays by Céline Chicha-Castex, Nancy Ireson, Anne de Mondonard and Simonetta Fraquelli that contribute to the critical re-evaluation of this remarkable artist. The essays allow the reader to experience the wide-ranging and prescient nature of Robert Delaunay’s work — exploring the significant themes of movement, technology, sport, and advertising that were to preoccupy him throughout his career.

»There it is: the blue-grey, wrought-iron tower. Initially many Parisians would have preferred to have seen it torn down. It glows, as if immersed in the colours of the rainbow. Robert Victor Félix Delaunay first painted the Eiffel Tower from the view of his studio window. He transformed it into an icon of Modern Art — indeed, of the modern age in general — in the early days of the tremendous twentieth century.«

— from the introduction by Christoph Becker, Kunsthaus Zürich

The Kunsthaus Zürich shows the most comprehensive presentation of Robert Delaunay’s work in Switzerland to date.

For further details, cover image, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher’s press office:
Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com
Sandra Dürdoth, sandra.duerdoth@kehrerverlag.com
Kehrer Verlag, Wieblingen Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25 | Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com
Robert Delaunay and The City of Lights
Kunsthaus Zürich
31 August – 18 November 2018

Robert Delaunay, Self-Portrait, 1909
Oil on canvas, 73 x 60 cm
Centre Pompidou, Musée national d’art moderne - Centre de création industrielle, Paris. Donation Sonia Delaunay et Charles Delaunay, 1964
Photo: © Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI, Dist. RMN-Grand Palais/Philippe Migeat

Robert Delaunay, Political Drama, 1914
Oil and collage on cardboard, 88.7 x 67.3 cm
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Donation Joseph H. Hazen Foundation

Robert Delaunay, Self-Portrait, 1909
Oil on canvas, diameter 124 cm
Esther Grether Familiensammlung

Robert Delaunay, Olympics, Paris, 1924, 1923
Gouache and ink on paper, 65 x 50 cm
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris

Robert Delaunay, Saint-Séverin, 1909
Watercolour and pencil on paper, 47.8 x 34 cm
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Bequest of Betty Bartlett McAndrew

Robert Delaunay, Triumph of Paris, 1929
Gouache on cardboard, 73.2 x 95.4 cm
Private collection Switzerland

Robert Delaunay, Disc [The First Disc], 1913
Oil on canvas, 155 x 95 cm
Esther Grether Familiensammlung

Robert Delaunay, The Eiffel Tower and the Airplane, 1925
Oil on canvas, 155 x 95 cm
Galerie Le Minotaure, Paris

Robert Delaunay, Rythmes: Joie de Vivre, 1930
Oil on canvas, 146 x 130 cm
Private collection

Robert Delaunay, The Runners, 1924–1925
Oil on canvas, 153 x 203 cm
Private collection

Robert Delaunay, The Eiffel Tower, 1925–1928
Gelatine silver print, 27.5 x 34.4 cm
Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris
Photo: Musée Carnavalet / Parisienne de Photographie
© RMN-Grand Palais – Gestion droit d’auteur

Robert Delaunay, Thomys, 1919
Oil on canvas, 155 x 95 cm
Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris
Photo: Musée Carnavalet / Parisienne de Photographie
© RMN-Grand Palais – Gestion droit d’auteur

Images for download on www.kunsthaus.ch. To be reprinted only in connection with a press coverage of the exhibition.