

Love | Part Two of the trilogy of exhibitions *Faith, Love, Hope* **13 October 2019 to 26 January 2020**

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Love is everywhere: Not only is it the reoccurring theme in novels, movies and songs, but is constant part of social discourses. How do we love? Who do we love? And why? And what happens when love stops?

The second exhibition of the trilogy *Faith, Love, Hope* which started in May 2019 examines the concept of love. The exhibition defines love as a form of special social relationships that express themselves through human interaction. With a selection of artworks from the 19th to the 21st century, including works by Stephan Balkenhol, Marc Chagall and Maria Lassnig, the exhibition reflects on the possibilities, limitations and contradictions of love. At the same time, it transports them from romanticisation into reality, thereby questioning social norms and ideas.

Contradictions and Opposites

Love is shaped by extreme contrasts: trust and jealousy, security and fear of loss, autonomy and dedication. All of these emotions can be experienced within a partnership or friendship, between parents and their children or between believers and God. Accordingly, the exhibition is not dedicated to love as a purely romantic affection or passion, but to the question of how such a complex and contradictory feeling can emerge and persist.

How can love be portrayed?

With paintings, photographs, sculptures, an installation and a video work, the exhibition presents artistic positions that look at the theme of love from different perspectives. Thus, love manifests itself as a protective gesture of a mother towards her child, as a compulsive, even cosmic connection between man and woman, as well as the cultural absurdity of this connection or as an abstract force. Sometimes realistically and obviously, sometimes objectively, the exhibition reveals the facets of human relationships.

Artists

Stephan Balkenhol, Carl Buchheister, Michael Buthe, Marc Chagall, Maria Lassnig, Wolfgang Matheuer, Gabriel Cornelius Ritter von Max, Duane Michals, Tracey Moffatt, Anna Oppermann, Philippe Vandenberg

Publication

Accompanying the exhibition a richly illustrated catalogue will be published in three languages (German, English and Dutch).

Credits

Stephan Balkenhol, Kugelmenschen (Mann und Frau), 2012, Courtesy Stephan Balkenhol und SENDA gallery | © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019

Carl Buchheister, Lebensbejahung, 1924, Berlin, Berlinische Galerie – Landesmuseum für Moderne

Kunst, Fotografie und Architektur | © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019, Foto: Kai-Annett Becker

Marc Chagall, Hommage à Apollinaire, 1913, Collection Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Niederlande | © Collection Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Niederlande / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019, Foto: Peter Cox, Eindhoven, Niederlande

Maria Lassnig, Be-Ziehungen II, 1993, Maria Lassnig Stiftung | © Maria Lassnig Stiftung / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019, Foto: Roland Krauss

Philippe Vandenberg, Aimer c'est flageller I, Zu lieben heißt zu geißeln I, To Love Is to Flagellate I, 1981–1998, Courtesy Estate Philippe Vandenberg und Hauser & Wirth | © Philippe Vandenberg Foundation, Foto: Joke Floreal