

# MUSEUM LUDWIG

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## Press Information

### **Icons of Art History and Contemporaneity: The Museum Ludwig Collection**

The Museum Ludwig is one of Europe's leading institutions of modern and contemporary art due to its sizable collection, which includes significant works of Pop Art, German Expressionism, and photography. The museum is also home to the third-largest collection of Picassos in the world. Since its founding in 1976, the museum has steadily evolved and now houses an impressive range of art that reflects both historical and contemporary movements.

Central to the museum's work is an ongoing reevaluation of its own collection. This includes reexamining its contents and history within the context of postcolonial, gender, and queer studies in order to critically challenge the art-historical canon and open the collection up to diverse cultures and perspectives. This process has led the Museum Ludwig to explore art from South America, Africa, and Asia and to increase the visibility of women artists.

The Museum Ludwig is actively committed to ecological sustainability. Our internal team for sustainability has implemented numerous initiatives and measures to minimize our carbon footprint and conserve resources. These have included introducing energy-efficient lighting, a comprehensive recycling program, longer exhibition running times, and a more sustainable approach to printed matter. Through such efforts, the Museum Ludwig has set an example of ecological responsibility in the field of culture.

### **A Lively Legacy**

The Museum Ludwig's impressive collection is due to the extraordinary commitment of private collectors and donors. Peter and Irene Ludwig's 1976 donation of 350 works of Western modern art laid the foundation for the museum, which was inaugurated in 1986 in a new building designed by the architects Peter Busmann and Godfried Haberer and located on a site between Cologne Cathedral, the Rhine, and the central train station.

Another fundamental contribution to the museum was made by the Cologne lawyer Josef Haubrich, who donated his collection of early modern art to the city of Cologne in 1946, just after the end of World War II. This collection contains significant works of Expressionism and Neue Sachlichkeit, including pieces by Otto Dix, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Max Beckmann, Marc Chagall, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, August Macke, and Paula Modersohn-Becker.

### **A Comprehensive and Diverse Collection**

American Pop Art, which had a decisive impact on art history in the second half of the twentieth century, is a major focus of the museum's collection. The Ludwig's started collecting Pop Art

masterpieces in the 1960s, including iconic works by Roy Lichtenstein, Marisol, Claes Oldenburg, Andy Warhol, James Rosenquist, and Robert Rauschenberg.

The Museum Ludwig's Picasso collection of around nine hundred works spans the entire breadth of his media, from ceramics to sculpture, and his creative periods, including the three large print cycles.

The Museum Ludwig also offers a comprehensive overview of the most important art movements and media of the twentieth century. The collection is home to seminal works by Cubo-Futurist, Suprematist, and Constructivist artists, such as Natalia Goncharova, Alexander Rodchenko, and Kazimir Malevich, and artists working in Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, Conceptualism, and the European tendencies of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Museum Ludwig's photography collection contains around seventy thousand works that range from photography's beginnings in the early nineteenth century to the present day. Its foundations were laid with the acquisition of works from the collection of L. Fritz Gruber in 1976. Subsequent donations from L. Fritz and Renate Gruber significantly expanded the collection, and it is thanks to these individuals that the museum holds one of the most comprehensive collections of photographs by Man Ray. A body of Russian photographs from the 1920s and 1930s on permanent loan from the Peter and Irene Ludwig Foundation was significantly augmented by the collection of Daniela Mrázková. The acquisition of the extensive and historical collections of Robert Lebeck and the former Agfa Photo-Historama strengthened the collection's holdings of iconic photographs from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including works by Julia Margaret Cameron and August Sander. Recent donations from the Bartenbach family have substantially added to the holdings of twentieth-century and contemporary artistic and documentary photography. In the past few decades, works by contemporary artists, including Halil Altındere, VALIE EXPORT, Tarrah Krajnak, Wolfgang Tillmans, Jeff Wall, Carrie Mae Weems, and Christopher Williams, have expanded the collection into the present.

The Museum Ludwig's collection of contemporary art displays the diverse genres and media explored by artists today. The collection includes paintings by Wade Guyton, Lubaina Himid, and Kerry James Marshall, installations and conceptual works by Georges Adéagbo, Minerva Cuevas, Maria Eichhorn, and Füsün Onur, and video works by Trisha Baga, Pierre Huyghe, and Boaz Kaizman. The collection of contemporary art is constantly being expanded through new acquisitions and donations, which most recently include works by Kresiah Mukwazhi, Herbert Gentry, and Takako Saito.

### **Dialogue and Education**

In addition to providing space for art, the Museum Ludwig also supports interactive learning and lively discussion. Our exhibitions and educational program reflect current social issues, enabling the museum in the heart of the city to position itself as a dynamic platform for anyone interested in art.

For more information on our current exhibitions, please visit our website at [www.museum-ludwig.de](http://www.museum-ludwig.de).