



PRESS RELEASE

German Expressionism

Film series accompanies exhibition "Modern German Printings and Drawings"

March 31 - April 14, 2014

Goethe-Institut Washington
812 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

www.goethe.de/washington

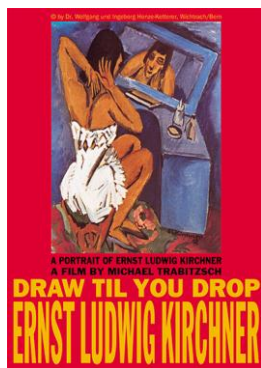
(Washington, DC, March 24, 2014) – Three films about extraordinary German Expressionist artists screen at the Goethe-Institut on Monday nights March 31 – April 14. Like hardly any other art movement, German Expressionism yielded a couple of extraordinary artists whose works were so eminently autobiographical that they could be described as the focus of an epoch. The emotional and psychological effects of World War I are visible and palpable in almost every painting of leading artists from that time, such as Max Beckmann and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. German painter Gerhard Richter's works reflect very modern and advanced elements of Abstract Expressionism, which emerged after World War II.

All films are in German with English subtitles. Accompanying the exhibit *Modern German Prints and Drawings from the Kainen Collection* at the National Gallery of Art.

Monday, March 31, 6:30 pm

Draw Til You Drop – The Painter Ernst Ludwig Kirchner

(Zeichnen bis zur Raserei – Der Maler Ernst Ludwig Kirchner)
Germany, 2001, 86 min., 35mm, Director: Michael Trabitzsch



As one of the most famous and influential artists of German Expressionism, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880-1938) is an excellent subject for a film about the beginning of the 20th century. No one has succumbed to the city as fully as he did: enamored, lonely, lost, disillusioned, fascinated. His streetscapes of Berlin serve as a backdrop in our mind's eye when we seek to capture big-city life in the first half of the 20th century. The span of tension in Kirchner's life and work makes for suspense-filled drama and yields an intense film portrayal.

Michael Trabitzsch (b. 1954) studied German literature, philosophy and sociology in Goettingen and Berlin. He has worked as a freelance journalist and author for radio features, documentaries, books and periodicals. In 1992, he founded his own film production company, Prounen Film in Berlin.

Monday, April 7, 6:30 pm

Max Beckmann – Departure (Max Beckmann – Der Maler)

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Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

Germany, 2013, 93 min., 35mm, Director: **Michael Trabitzsch**



Enigmatic paintings, a life impacted by two world wars, and continual travels throughout Europe and the United States – this fascinating documentary about Max Beckmann (1884-1950), one of the 20th century's greatest painters, tells the story of the German artist's complex life and work. The film focuses primarily on his paintings, which from the beginning were a mixture of Realism, Impressionism and Expressionism. Beckmann's famous triptychs, which expressed his feelings about war, violence, misery, love and sensuality, are knowledgeably decrypted by international art historians, but also through Beckmann's own words found in his letters and diaries.

Monday, April 14, 6:30 pm

Gerhard Richter Painting

2009-2011, 101 min., 35mm, Director: **Corinna Belz**



In his "Hahnwald" studio in Cologne, painter Gerhard Richter (b. 1932) is grappling with a fiddly tripod. He then sets up the camera, focusing on one work which has been painted over in grey. He refines a second painting with a palette knife. It's clear that the creative process behind Richter's works, which all seem so spontaneous, is actually the result of a lengthy process of searching and experimentation. Based on live

sequences out of his daily work, tracking shots and historic TV interviews from the 60's and 70's, this unique documentary illustrates the creative process of one of the most important contemporary painters, who the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* claimed "saved painting in the 21st century".

Corinna Belz (b. 1955) studied philosophy, art history and media studies and has been involved in numerous film and TV productions as a writer, director and producer. Her first film about Gerhard Richter, *Das Kölner Domfenster*, received the "World Media Gold Award – Art Documentaries".

General Admission to Films at the Goethe-Institut: \$ 7/\$ 4 Members of Friends of the Goethe-Institut, seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased right before the screenings, or during office hours Monday-Thursday 10am-5pm and Friday 10am-3pm, or online at www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe.

About the Goethe-Institut Washington

On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe. Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language in the midst of the revitalized Downtown. Visit www.goethe.de/washington for more information.

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