

2010 Review and 2011 Preview

Städel Museum: “Botticelli” most successful exhibition in the history of the Städel, 20.8% increase in visitors, international exhibition tours of the Städel collection, topping-out ceremony of Städel extension building, more than 90% of construction financing secured. /

Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung: “Sahure” most successful exhibition in the history of the Liebieghaus, 28.9% increase in visitors. /

Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt: rediscoveries and new perspectives, 32% increase in visitors.

Frankfurt am Main, January 2011. For the Städel Museum, the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, and the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt 2010 turned out to be an extraordinarily successful year, with all institutions managing to raise their influx of visitors: at the Städel Museum attendance increased by 20.8% to 397,123; at the Liebieghaus by 28.9% to 106,425; and at the Schirn Kunsthalle by 32% to 328,872 visitors. The Städel has thus seen a rise in visitors for the seventh year in succession despite comprehensive construction work and the closing of the house for several months in the past year. The exhibition dedicated to the Italian Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli visited by 367,033 persons between November 2009 and February 2010 contributed a major share to this increase. “Botticelli” turned out to have been the most successful show of the Städel by far, followed by “Rembrandt Rembrandt” (2003) with 245,000 and “Cranach the Elder” (2007/08) with 205,000 visitors. Comprising more than 180 works, the retrospective dedicated to Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, which attracted 136,690 visitors within the fourteen weeks it was on display, proved another magnet. The most popular show at the Schirn was “Georges Seurat. Figure in Space” with a total of 111,890 visitors. With “Sahure – Death and Life of a Great Pharaoh”, the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung presented the hitherto most successful exhibition in its one-hundred-year history; it was seen by 65,486 visitors.

At the **Städel Museum**, construction work on the **extension building for the presentation of art after 1945** is in full swing. The project of the Frankfurt-based architects schneider + schumacher, which emerged as the winner from an invited competition in February 2008, will provide an additional exhibition area of 3,000 square meters. A formal topping-out ceremony on November 25, 2010 marked the completion of the underground structure’s shell after only fifteen months of construction work within the agreed time limit.

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Presently, 195 circular skylights made of spherically molded laminated safety glass are fitted into the curved ceiling shell. Subsequent steps will include the installation of technical facilities and the completion of the connection between the old building and the new space. Considerable progress has also been made with the refurbishment of the Main River and garden wings of the old building. The entire institution will be made accessible for people with impairments; additional escape routes and stairs will be provided. The old building will also be fitted with comprehensive fire prevention facilities.

The necessary closure of the old building presented the Städel with the opportunity to present works of its collection to a wide international public in the context of two **traveling exhibitions**. Titled "European Masters: 19th–20th century art from the Städel Museum" and "The Golden Age. Dutch and Flemish Masterpieces from the Städel Museum," the presentations are shown in seven international museums such as the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, where 200,130 visitors came to see the exhibition, and the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao with about 301.625 visitors to date. The works will return to the Städel in time for the opening.

The **extension is to be opened** in the fall of 2011. The permanent collection in the old building will also be presented in a new form in fall. When it reopens, the Städel will have doubled its exhibition area for its collection.

The costs for building the extension will amount to about 30 million euros. Another 10 million euros will have to be spent for the refurbishment of the old building. Thanks to the support of public authorities, business companies, foundations, and private patrons, it has been possible to secure **90% of the required funds**. The fund-raising campaign "Frankfurt is building the New Städel. Join us!" started in September 2009 has yielded 59.4% (2,972,000 euros) of the total of five million euros aimed at. Students of the Schillerschule have painted for the Städel and put their works up for auction, opera diva Diana Damrau has sung for the Städel, MoMa Director Glenn D. Lowry has held a special lecture, and the star-winnings chefs Franz Keller and Mario Lohninger have cooked for the Städel. Many citizens from the entire region and far beyond it have already shown their engagement for the Städel.

In parallel with the extension of the building, **new works** have been **added to the collection** of the Städel Museum. In 2010, a number of important works could be secured for the Städel's holdings. Outstanding acquisitions were made by the Städel'sche Museums-Verein and by the Städelkomitee 21. Jahrhundert, by the latter particularly in the field of contemporary art. The collection has been extended by a total of 45 works ranging from early abstract geometric tendencies – as they become manifest in François Morellet's or Adolf Fleischmann's works, for example – to German painting of the 1960s and 1970s

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and extended pictorial concepts like those reflected in the works of Tamara Grcic. Barbara Beaucamp and her husband Eduard Beaucamp donated the painting "Madonna with Child" (1621/22) by Guercino, one of the most important Italian Baroque painters, to the museum, thus adding another high-carat work to its collection of old masters.

In February 2010, a symposium titled "**Museum im Widerspruch**" (Museum in Conflict), which explored the issue "The Städel and National Socialism," focused on the museum's institutional history. In collaboration with the research center "Entartete Kunst" (Degenerate Art) under the direction of Prof. Dr. Uwe Fleckner, the administration and management of the Städel Museum had initiated a project in 2008 that traced the contradictory development of the Städelisches Kunstinstitut under the National Socialist regime. The publication summing up the research results was presented in early 2011.

The **Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung** was also very active in the field of exhibitions in 2010 and may be proud of extraordinary numbers of visitors. The exhibition "**Jean-Antoine Houdon. Sculpture and Sensibility**" centered on the oeuvre of one of the most renowned French artists of the eighteenth century, an exemplary sculptor of the Enlightenment, and the most successful portrait sculptor of his time. After its presentation in the Liebieghaus, the exhibition was on display in the Musée Fabre in Montpellier. The show "**Sahure – Death and Life of a Great Pharaoh**" caused a veritable stir. High-caliber originals – reliefs, architectural elements, sculptures, vases, and valuable papyri – testified to the extraordinary veneration the great pharaoh enjoyed. A lecture held by Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and Egyptian Vice-Secretary of Cultural Affairs, who is regarded as the ultimate authority on the excavation sites of Sahure's pyramid complex in Abusir, provided a definite highlight. With a total of 65,486 visitors, the exhibition was the most successful in the history of the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung. The fact that the Liebieghaus reached the highest attendance ever in 2010 is to be attributed essentially to this show.

The program of the **Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt** again offered a convincing and manifold range of exhibitions. The show "Georges Seurat. Figure in Space," which comprised about sixty paintings, studies in oil, and drawings of the French Neo-Impressionist, attracted more people than all other exhibitions: 111,890 persons came to see it. It was a new discovery which the show "Uwe Lausen. All's fine that ends fine" confronted its visitors with; after its premiere at the Schirn, the show was presented at the Villa Stuck in Munich and the Falckenberg Collection in Hamburg. The exhibition drew attention to a forgotten oeuvre, which thus found its appropriate place in the history of German art. The agenda of the project "Playing the City" included numerous artistic activities and interventions across Frankfurt; it was already realized for the second time and will be continued in 2011. With its thematic exhibitions "Celluloid. Cameraless Film" and "World Transformers. Outsider

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Art,” the Schirn succeeded in providing crucial issues for interesting debates. Still on display until January 30, 2011, the show “Courbet. A Dream of Modern Art,” which presented the French representative of Realism as one of the great dreamers in the history of art, was one of the highlights of 2010.

The Schirn pursued new ways concerning its presence in the **Internet** in 2010. Besides the relaunch of its website, which has become clearly more service-oriented and informative, the Schirn launched an online magazine (www.schirn-magazin.de). The magazine offers interviews with artists, films, as well as background information on the exhibitions. Microsites are developed for selected exhibitions, some of which – like that for the show “Celluloid. Cameraless Film” – have a strongly participatory character.

The **educational programs** of each of the three houses also saw an extension in 2010. Special mention is to be made of the joint project “Jungs” committed to supporting a group of male children and young people categorized as losers in the education system and “Walk of Fame,” which is aimed at offering orientation via art education programs to those young people who have not yet found the right profession and at supporting them in their development.

Preview

The range of the **Schirn Kunsthalle**’s schedule of exhibitions in 2011 spans from thematic presentations to solo shows dedicated to twentieth-century and contemporary artists. The Schirn celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary with the exhibition “Surreal Objects. Three-Dimensional Works from Dalí to Man Ray” (February 11 – May 29, 2011), which, comprising about 180 objects, focuses exclusively on the Surrealists’ three-dimensional production for the first time. “Eugen Schönebeck. 1957–1967” (February 23 – May 15, 2011) and “Kienholz. The Signs of the Times” (October 21, 2011 – January 29, 2012) will convey a comprehensive idea of two positions which had a decisive influence on subsequent generations of artists. As part of its shows on present-day artistic positions, the Schirn presents the solo exhibition “Haris Epaminonda” (May 13 – July 31, 2011) and, accompanying the focus theme Iceland chosen for this year’s Frankfurt Book Fair, “Gabriela Friðriksdóttir. Crepusculum” (September 29, 2011 – January 8, 2012) and “Erró. Portrait and Landscape” (October 6, 2011 – January 8, 2012). With its major thematic exhibition “Secret Societies” (June 23 – September 25, 2011) the Schirn will try to answer the question in how far secret societies also reflect certain mechanisms of contemporary art. The Schirn’s show “Francesco Clemente” (June 8 – September 4, 2011) presents an artist known for his extraordinary imagery and offers an opportunity to see the artist’s spectacular series of watercolors articulating his spiritual experiences. In addition, the successful project “Playing the City” will be continued in 2011 (August 11 – August 25,

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2011). Numerous international artists will realize their works in urban space and explore issues of its organization.

The **Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung** shows the exhibition "Ivory. Baroque Splendor at the Court of Vienna", which opens in February. Numerous virtuoso carvings from the heyday of ivory art can be presented in collaboration with the Cabinet of Wonders of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien. In the fall of 2011, the Liebieghaus will dedicate an exhibition to "Niclas Gerhaert von Leyden" (October 27, 2011 – March 4, 2012), one of the most important and influential artists of the late Gothic period.

In the **Städel Museum's** Exhibition Building, the presentation of its collection titled "In Chronological Order: Städel Works of the 14th to 21st Centuries" will be on display until June 26, 2011. In addition to the reopened presentations, the show "Beckmann and America" (October 7, 2011 – January 8, 2012) will certainly prove a highlight. From the late summer of 1947 on, Beckmann lived and taught in America where he died in 1950. The last years of his life and artistic production far from Europe mark a powerful new beginning within the artist's oeuvre. The exhibition is indebted to an initiative of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt Rhein Main GmbH and is presented as part of the project "The Phenomenon of Expressionism."

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