

Press Release

April 2024

H'ART Museum and Centre Pompidou present Kandinsky in Amsterdam as never before

The grand opening of H'ART Museum in the Dutch capital on Wednesday June 19, 2024, marks the start of the cross-cultural collaboration between the Centre Pompidou and the museum formerly known as Hermitage Amsterdam. The Russian-born artist Wassily Kandinsky (Moscow 1866 – Paris 1944) takes center stage in H'ART Museum's first exhibition. The Centre Pompidou holds one of the world's renowned Kandinsky collections thanks to the generosity of the artist's widow. Nina Kandinsky donated a large amount of artworks and documents during her lifetime and bequeathed the contents of the artist's studio to France. For this exhibition, a great number of masterpieces from the Centre Pompidou will travel from Paris to their temporary home in Amsterdam. More than 60 artworks create a unique overview of Kandinsky's oeuvre: a personal journey that made him one of the pioneers of abstract art. Exhibited as never before, from Wednesday June 19 until Sunday November 10, 2024.



Credits can be found at the end

Masterpieces

This exhibition portrays the entire artistic career of the artist. From the early figurative, almost impressionistic studies to the distinctive abstract paintings that ultimately evolved into more organic and hybrid forms. Including crucial works such as *Mit dem schwarzen Bogen* (1912), *Im Grau* (1919), *Auf Weiss II* (1923), *Auf Spitzen* (1928) and *Entassement réglé* (1938). The latter was an Easter gift to his wife Nina, inspired by the Fabergé eggs, made of precious stones and enamels, given by the Tsars to their wives. Some of his final paintings, such as *Accord réciproque* (1942) and *Peinture Inachevée* (1944), show the apotheosis of his work.

Bauhaus Salon

One of the absolute highlights is the life-size *Salon* (1922), created by Kandinsky and his Bauhaus students. Although the famous creation does not exist anymore, the Salon was reconstructed in Paris, under the watchful eye of Nina Kandinsky, for the opening of the Centre Pompidou in 1977. Now, for the grand opening of H'ART Museum, the immense canvasses will find its temporary home in Amsterdam. Other documents such as sketches, photographs and videos complement the exhibition.

Art beyond borders

Wassily Kandinsky has a special biography; born in tsarist Russia, celebrated as a Bauhaus teacher and German citizen he escaped the rise of fascism and sought refuge in France, where he died in 1944 as a French citizen just after the liberation by Général de Gaulle. This unbelievable journey of crossing borders mirrors the richness and diversity of his art. Just as the context of his time, characterized by a changing world through crises, wars and revolutions, influenced him as an artist. As did the artist's friendships in different countries, of which the Bauhaus group is a famous example. This exhibition shows in a unique setup how the artist and his work developed over time.

Apart from the chronological art historical story, that traces Kandinsky's career, other perspectives will be added through which the artist's oeuvre will be further explored. For this, H'ART Museum invited artists Bink van Vollenhoven (1983) and Søren Siebel (1981) to develop additional story lines in the form of immersive interventions throughout the exhibition that ultimately explore Kandinsky's relevance today. Such as a soundwalk, performative events and a special multimedia route with animations for children between five and nine years old.

Catalogue

H'ART Museum and WBooks publish a special catalogue for this exhibition, in Dutch and English. The catalogue will be available from the opening date of the exhibition in the museum, bookshops and online. It will be the very first H'ART Museum publication. Publications on other Centre Pompidou exhibitions like Constantin Brancusi, Henri Matisse, Surrealism, and Fernand Léger will follow.

For the editorial office

More information about the exhibition and high-res press images are available via our website.

Images f.l.t.r.: Wassily Kandinsky, *Mit dem schwarzen Bogen*, 1912. Collection Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Hélène Mauri/Dist. RMN-GP. Wassily Kandinsky, *Akhtyrka. Nina et Tatiana dans la véranda*, 1917. Collection Centre Pompidou. MNAM-CCI/Service de la documentation photographique du MNAM/Dist. RMN-GP. Wassily Kandinsky, *Auf Spitzen*, 1926. Collection Centre Pompidou. MNAM-CCI/Service de la documentation photographique du MNAM/Dist. RMN-GP.

About H'ART Museum

For 15 years, the rooms of the H'ART Museum building displayed the most unique and celebrated art, from antiquity to the present day. Acclaimed exhibitions from the Hermitage and from Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum made it one of the most beloved art destinations in the city. The new H'ART Museum is now connecting museums, art and audiences in new ways. Together with its international museum partners Centre Pompidou, British Museum and Smithsonian American Art Museum. H'ART Museum travels the world and presents one-of-a-kind exhibitions in Amsterdam for everyone to enjoy. Located in a centuries-old landmark building in the historic heart of the city. H'ART Museum is a cultural oasis with a unique courtyard garden and a bustling Grand Café. H'ART Museum serves as a hub for a myriad of activities, from concerts, lectures and movie nights to art education for children and young adults.

About Centre Pompidou

Since 1977, the Centre Pompidou has been deeply rooted in the city of Paris and open to the world and to innovation. Its iconic building is home to Europe's richest and one of the world's largest collections of modern and contemporary art, in addition to exhibitions, symposiums, festivals, shows, projections, and workshops for young people. Its extremely rich programme at the crossroads of art forms and audiences attracts more than 3 million visitors every year. True to its ambition to make culture and creation available to as many people as possible, the Centre Pompidou also develops its regional and international presence.

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