

PRESS INFORMATION

PICASSO – GORKY – WARHOL  
SCULPTURES AND WORKS ON PAPER  
COLLECTION HUBERT LOOSER

July 1 to November 4, 2018  
Kunsthalle Krems



Pablo Picasso  
*Sylvette*, 1954  
sheet-metal cutout with oil painting  
on both sides, 69,9 x 47 x 1 cm  
© Succession Picasso / Bildrecht, Vienna, 2018  
Photo: Fondation Hubert Looser

Press images: <http://bit.ly/SammlungLooser>

Press contact	Kunsthalle Krems
Angelika Starkl	Franz- Zeller- Platz 3
+43 664 604 99 176	3500 Krems
angelika.starkl@kunstmeile.at	www.kunsthalle.at

## PICASSO – GORKY – WARHOL SCULPTURES AND WORKS ON PAPER COLLECTION HUBERT LOOSER

The Swiss-based Hubert Looser Collection is one of the outstanding European private collections of modern and contemporary art focused on Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Minimal Art, and Arte Povera. Featuring over 150 works from the collection, which span the range from classical Modernism to the present day, the exhibition shown at the Kunsthalle Krems visualizes the tension-loaded relationship between sculpture and works on paper.

Large and variegated holdings of works on paper make up the core of the collection of Hubert Looser, impressively complemented by works of painting and sculpture. Among them, there are works by Arshile Gorky, Willem de Kooning, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol, Agnes Martin, Roni Horn, and Richard Serra as well as a body of Swiss positions that Hubert Looser had made the foundation of his collection.

To him, the line, and with it, drawing primarily is a visual and aesthetic manifesto, an appeal to engage, intuitively and with fine feeling, in an encounter with art. In a way, the drawings show the artists' *conchetto*; they are the direct graphic outgrowth of their *prima idea*, which occasionally is further developed into sculpture or large-format painting. Or the drawing may only stand for itself as a solitary self-expression: purist lines marking a sheet of paper— whether it's figurative as with Henri Matisse and Warhol, or abstract as with Twombly or Brice Marden.

Particularly the early Swiss purchases that Hubert Looser made in the 1960s and '70s are, for the most part, works on paper. These drawings by exponents of Surrealism and Informalism are juxtaposed in Krems and Zurich with works by international greats of art history like Gorky or de Kooning. So, for example, an exciting confrontation is enacted between an ink drawing by Gorky from the 1930s and drawings of Serge Brignoni, or between Lenz Klotz's swirling lines and Twombly's scribbly marks on the paper. Taking a fresh look at the works, the exhibition shifts the focus on the less noted as a source of new insight. In fall 2019, the exhibition will be shown at the Kunsthhaus Zürich.

Curator: Florian Steininger

With works by

Magdalena Abakanowicz, Jean-Charles Blais, Serge Brignoni, Anthony Caro, Eduardo Chillida, Le Corbusier, Martin Disler, Arshile Gorky, Philip Guston, Roni Horn, Jasper Johns, Yves Klein, Lenz Klotz, Willem de Kooning, Catherine Lee, Sol LeWitt, Brice Marden, Agnes Martin, Henri Matisse, Meret Oppenheim, A.R. Penck, Giuseppe Penone, Pablo Picasso, Walter Pichler, Arnulf Rainer, Mimmo Rotella, Dieter Roth, Sean Scully, Kurt Seligmann, Richard Serra, David Smith, Louis Soutter, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Al Taylor, André Thomkins, Richard Tuttle, Cy Twombly, Bernar Venet, Fabienne Verdier, Andy Warhol and Hugo Weber.

## COLLECTION HUBERT LOOSER

The history of the collection dates back to the year 1962, when then 24-year-old Hubert Looser bought his first artwork in Cambodia: a frottage of relief walls in Angkor Wat, a temple complex dated to the 8th to 13th century. While placing the focus on modern and contemporary art from the Western hemisphere, the collection also includes occasional treasures of art production of the Asian area, mostly sculptural works. The former entrepreneur is a philanthropist and has supported more than 40 humanitarian projects since 1988, two of them in the region.

The way the Zurich-based collector got into modern and contemporary art was through Swiss positions. He bought works of the abstract-expressive painters Marcel Schaffner, Hugo Weber, and Lenz Klotz and of the Surrealist artists André Thomkins, Kurt Seligmann, and Serge Brignoni. They graced not only his private rooms but also his company offices—Hubert Looser was co-owner of heating manufacturer ELCO and until 1992 president of the Walter Rentsch Holding AG. In 1988, he set up the Fondation Hubert Looser. Over the years, works by already internationally known eminent Swiss artists such as Martin Disler, Meret Oppenheim, or Jean Tinguely, and as a crowning piece, Alberto Giacometti's bronze *Annette assise* joined the others.

In the early 1990s, Hubert Looser got into the market for American art and bought a 1973 *Mao* drawing by Andy Warhol, a purchase that reflected his predilection for pure drawing. He took less interest in the typical silkscreens of the Pop-Art master than in works of Abstract Expressionism and Minimal Art rarely found in European collections. First and foremost, it was the work of Willem de Kooning through which the Hubert Looser Collection sought to heighten its profile. Today, Looser's holdings of works by de Kooning are one of the most important in Europe. Other important positions included in the collection are bodies of work by Brice Marden, David Smith, Cy Twombly, Robert Ryman, Agnes Martin, Al Taylor, Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Richard Tuttle, Lucio Fontana, Giuseppe Penone, and Bernar Venet; moreover, it comprises a number of masterly individual works by Pablo Picasso, Alberto Giacometti, Arshile Gorky, Anselm Kiefer, Tony Smith, Donald Judd, or Richard Serra. Picasso's sculpture *Sylvette* of 1954 in a way is Hubert Looser's *Nefertiti*. In it, drawing and sculpture combine in a way of playful genius.

## CATALOGUE

Accompanying the exhibition, the catalogue *PICASSO – GORKY – WARHOL. Sculptures and works on paper. Collection Hubert Looser* with a text by Florian Steininger will be published.

Title: *PICASSO – GORKY – WARHOL. Sculptures and works on paper. Collection Hubert Looser*

Editor: Florian Steininger

Date of publishing: 2018

Dimension: 230 x 280 mm

Cover: Softcover

Language: German / English

Pages: 128

Contribution: Florian Steininger

Costs 24,90 €



## EXHIBITION DATES

### PICASSO – GORKY – WARHOL SCULPTURES AND WORKS ON PAPER COLLECTION HUBERT LOOSER

July 1 to November 4, 2018

Kunsthalle Krems

#### Kunsthalle Krems

Franz-Zeller-Platz 3

3500 Krems an der Donau, Austria

[www.kunsthalle.at](http://www.kunsthalle.at)

[www.facebook.com/kunsthalle.krems](https://www.facebook.com/kunsthalle.krems)

[www.instagram.com/kunsthalle.krems](https://www.instagram.com/kunsthalle.krems)

[www.twitter.com/kunsthallekrems](https://www.twitter.com/kunsthallekrems)

#### Opening hours

Tue-Sun, Mon when holiday

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Admission

Adults 10 €

Reduced 9 €

Family ticket 18 €

#### Press images

<http://bit.ly/SammlungLooser>

Press images may be used only for press purposes in connection with reporting on the exhibition and accompanied by the name of the artist, the title and date of work, the copyright holder and photo credit. The images must not be cropped, overprinted, tinted.

#### Press contact

Angelika Starkl

Press and Communications

T +43 664 604 99 176

E [angelika.starkl@kunstmeile.at](mailto:angelika.starkl@kunstmeile.at)

KUNSTMEILE KREMS BETRIEBS GmbH

Franz-Zeller-Platz 3, Austria

3500 Krems an der Donau

With the support of



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Schweizerische Botschaft in Österreich**

We would like to thank our sponsors and promoters:

