

MEDIA INFORMATION

Extraordinary! Unknown Works from Swiss Psychiatric Institutions around 1900
Kunstmuseum Thun, 9 February – 19 May 2019, Opening: 8 February, 6.30 pm

Ida Applebroog

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Media briefing: Thursday, 7 February 2019, 11 – 12 am

With a large number of exhibits, the exhibition *Extraordinary!* provides insights for the first time into the artistic work of patients from psychiatric institutions in Switzerland around 1900. Creative work in a psychiatric context attracts increasing interest from the public, but there exists very little research. In a unique project of the Zurich University of the Arts, medical records and historical collections from 22 cantonal institutions were examined to sort works created by patients during the period 2006 to 2014. More than 5,000 mostly unknown works could be recorded in an image database. A selection from these works can now be seen in an exhibition for the first time, which provides insight into this unusual creative work. The patients created their works with dedication and great technical and artistic competence. They considered the works as a contribution to public life, as an invention or expression of their thoughts, as criticism of the institution or enrichment in their monotonous everyday life. Their art is characterised by deliberations about what was considered as “not normal” and about their seclusion from the public. These artists are given a voice through their works in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be subsequently shown from 7 June to 18 August 2019 at the LENTOS Kunstmuseum in Linz, Austria.

Parallel to *Extraordinary!* the first institutional solo exhibition by the US-American artist Ida Applebroog (*1929 in New York) in Switzerland will also take place. The exhibition showcases the series titled *Mercy Hospital* (1969). These are drawings that she made during her stay in a psychiatric clinic during 1969–70, which were accidentally rediscovered in a loft by an assistant years later in 2009. The images in the forgotten sketchbook give an intimate insight into Applebroog’s battle with depression during her six-week stay in the San Diego clinic. Along with this, pictures and objects of the recent work series *Angry Birds of America* (2018) are also shown, which contain a brand new, top political component. Applebroog loves birds; she

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painted and created birds from plaster, as they are depicted in ornithology books. She named them «Angry Birds of America» and the title stuck in her head. She realised that she was in the middle of the Trump era. There was a lot of anger, a lot of rage, not only in herself, but in the entire United States of America. Applebroog felt as if she lived in a world where we are all angry, enraged, and even crazy. Her works can be found, among others, in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York NY, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York NY and the Museum of Modern Art, New York NY.

A publication will grace both exhibitions.

Extraordinary! Unknown Works from Swiss Psychiatric Institutions around 1900, Ed. Dr. Katrin Luchsinger, Helen Hirsch and Thomas Röske. With essays by Anna Lehninger, Sigrid Schade, Elisabeth Telsnig and Martina Wernli, Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess, 2018.

Ida Applebroog: Angry Birds of America, Ed. Helen Hirsch and Kunstmuseum Thun. With a preface by Helen Hirsch and an essay by Dr. Jo Applin, Verlag Moderne Kunst, 2019.

Images

Images are available for download at the website: <http://www.kunstmuseumthun.ch/de/medien/>. We kindly ask you to **always include the given captions and credits while using the images**.

Media contact

Kunstmuseum Thun, Geraldine Wullschleger, medien.kunstmuseum@thun.ch, T +41 (0)33 225 82 07

EVENTS

Opening day

Friday, 8 February, from 6.30 pm

7 pm, Welcome and introduction: Helen Hirsch, Director Kunstmuseum Thun; Dr. Katrin Luchsinger, Zurich University of the Arts; Sara Smidt, art mediator.

Opening for children

Friday, 8 February, 6.15 – 7.15 pm, with Saba Bach, art mediator.

For children from 5 years.

Public tours

Wednesday, 20 February, 6.15 pm, with Dr. Katrin Luchsinger and Helen Hirsch

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Sunday, 17 March, 11.15 am, with sign language interpreter Janet Fiebelkorn, Dr. Katrin Luchsinger and Geraldine Wullschleger, scientific assistant
Partner: IGGH Bern. The tour is also open for people who can hear.
Costs: Entry fee

Reading “The autobiographical account of the tailor Anna Z. (1864–1938), Nursing home Rheinau, 1916”

Sunday, 10 March, 11.15 am, with Sophie Arbeiter, actress
Introduction: Dr. Katrin Luchsinger
Partner: ZHdK

Café drunter & drüber

Sunday, 24. March, 11 am
Exhibition visit with subsequent exchange and vegetarian pasta for young and old. An event hosted by '«und» das Generationentandem'.
Costs: Entry fee, as well as a donation for the food.
Registration for the pasta up to 2 days in advance: l.thurian@generationentandem.ch

Language Bridge

Thursday, 4. April, 11 am
Visit by people with German as a foreign language. An event hosted by ProjekteNetzwerkThun. Intercultural encounters.
Costs: Entry fee

Guided tour in dialogue

Wednesday, 27 February, 6.15 pm
With Sayja Hope, crisis expert, and Sara Smidt, art mediator
Sunday, 14 April, 11.15 am
with Dr. med. Thomas Ihde, chief physician at the Psychiatry and Psychotherapy hospitals at Frutigen, Meiringen, Interlaken, and Helen Hirsch
Wednesday, 15 May, 6.15 pm
With Dr. Joerg Püschel, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, and Dr. Katrin Luchsinger
Costs: Entry fee + CHF 5

Art Brut?

Thursday, 28 February, 7 pm, Aargauer Kunsthaus
Roman Buxbaum, artist, Helen Hirsch, Director Kunstmuseum Thun, Markus Landert, Director Kunstmuseum Thurgau and Dr. Katrin Luchsinger will discuss the term «Art Brut». Moderation: Julia Schallberger, curator
Afterwards aperitif.
Entry fee + CHF 15

Narcissism – Science café visits the Thunerhof

Wednesday, 13 March, 5.15 – 6.15 pm
How does one best deal with narcissists? The Science café deals with current scientific and social questions and enables a direct dialogue between the audience and experts. You can participate in a discussion about the phenomenon narcissism. Afterwards the Kunstmuseum will be open from 6.30 pm to 8 pm and there is a short tour with Dr. Katrin Luchsinger.

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Place: Café Thunerhof. The event and the visit to the museum are possible without registration, free of charge.

Partner: Science et cité; ZHdK

Podium «Collection and preservation of “Art Brut” works in the future»

Wednesday, 27 March, 6.15 pm

With Markus Landert, Monika Jagfeld, Manager of Museum im Lagerhaus St. Gallen, and Helen Hirsch.

Moderation: Dorothee Vögele

With registration up to 2 days before the event: kunstmuseum@thun.ch, Ph 033 225 84 20

Entry fee + CHF 5

Partner: ZHdK

GET INVOLVED NO. 8

Sunday, 3 March, 3 – 5 pm

Cooking workshop: “Le cahier de cuisine” by Constance Schwartzlin-Berberat (1845–1911), Kantonale Irrenanstalt Waldau, with Dr. Katrin Luchsinger

Sunday, 28 April, 3 – 5 pm

Simple material in transformation, with Elisa Daubner

Workshop for adults and adolescents from 15 years. With registration.

Symposium «Raw art? Art outside the art scene»

Friday, 10 May, Zurich University of the Arts, Ausstellungsstrasse 60, 8004 Zurich. See also: blog.zhdk.ch/bewahrenbesondererkulturgueter/aktuell

Open art kitchen

Each Wednesday from 13 February to 8 May (except on 20 February), 3.30 – 6.30 pm.

Open studio for all! Artists provide impulses and space for creativity.

With Dan Reusser, Olivia Notaro and Elisa Daubner.

Partner: Pro Infirmis, pro mente sana, ZHdK.

Information and registration: sara.smidt@thun.ch, Ph 033 225 86 10

Cost: donation

Offers for schools

Introduction for teachers

Wednesday, 13 February, 5.30 – 6.30 pm

Introduction to the exhibition and presentation of the school offers with Saba Bach, art mediator.

Visit with art education

Level-appropriate and creative accompaniment of your school class in 2 lessons. Workshops in the art kitchen to deepen selected topics of the exhibition. Duration: by appointment. Registration till two weeks before the event: kunstvermittlung@thun.ch, Ph 033 225 86 10

Documentation for teachers: www.kunstmuseumthun.ch

Upon registration, schools can visit the museum without any charge before 10 am or on Monday mornings.

KUNSTMUSEUM THUN



GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunstmuseum Thun, Hofstettenstrasse 14, CH-3602 Thun
Ph +41 (0)33 225 84 20, www.kunstmuseumthun.ch, kunstmuseum@thun.ch

Tue – Sun 10 am – 5 pm, Wed 10 am – 7 pm, Mon closed.
For holidays visit www.kunstmuseumthun.ch

Entry:

CHF 10 /8 – free for children below 16 years; advance registration needed for groups.

Special guided tours on request, contact via Ph. +41 (0)33 225 84 20 or by e-mail: kunstmuseum@thun.ch

Food and drink: Café Thunerhof, www.fruitpower.ch, info@fruitpower.ch

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