

## The Reina Sofía shows 166 masterpieces from the modern collection of the Kunstmuseum Basel



PAUL KLEE  
*Senecio (Soon to be aged)*, 1922  
Oil on cardboard  
40.3 x 37.4 cm  
Kunstmuseum Basel  
Fotografía: Kunstmuseum Basel, Martin P. Bühler

- Kandinsky, Picasso, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Gris, Giacometti, Klee, Mondrian, Ernst, Rothko, Léger, Munch, Chagall, Gauguin, Renoir, Pissarro, Braque, Manet, Modigliani, Monet, Warhol, Picabia, Andre, Polke, Richter, Johns and Roth are some of the artists whose work is on display

- On view from July will be *Nafea Faa Ipoipo*, a picture by Gauguin

This year, from **March 18 to September 14**, the **Museo Reina Sofía** is offering the public an **unrepeatable opportunity** to admire a major selection of modern and contemporary art, one part of which comes from the public collection of the **Kunstmuseum Basel**, and the other from two of the most important of the private collections also housed in the Swiss museum, the **Rudolf Staechelin Collection** and the **Im Obersteg Collection**. A total of 168 works will be on view, of which only 12 have been exhibited in Spain before

The organization of both shows has been made possible by an **agreement** reached between the Museo Reina Sofía and the Kunstmuseum Basel, coinciding with the latter museum's closure for renovation. The exhibitions have the support of the regional government of Madrid and the Abertis Foundation.

The first exhibition, ***White Fire. The Modern Collection of the Kunstmuseum Basel***, comprises a selection of works from the public collection that can be seen on the first floor of the Sabatini Building of the Museo Reina Sofía. It is made up of 104 works (paintings, sculptures, collages, photographs and videos) covering a period from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The many artists represented include such renowned names as **Edvard Munch, Vassily Kandinsky, Pablo Picasso, Juan Gris, Fernand Léger, Georges Braque, Le Corbusier, Jean Dubuffet, Alberto Giacometti, Yves Tanguy, Hans Arp, André Masson, Max Ernst, Paul Klee, Piet Mondrian, László Moholy-Nagy, Gerhard Richter, Mark Rothko, Jasper Johns, Andy Warhol, Francis Picabia and Steve McQueen.**



PICASSO  
*Bureuse d'absinthe (verso: Femme dans la loge)*, 1901  
Oil on canvas  
81 x 60 cm  
Im Obersteg Foundation, permanent loan to the Kunstmuseum Basel  
Photography: Mark Gisler, Mülheim

The works gathered date from between the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the present day, and form a graphic illustration of the **evolution of art over the last 150 years**, including

examples of such diverse movements as **Symbolism, Expressionism, Cubism, Purism, the Bauhaus, Art Brut, Surrealism, abstraction, Constructivism, Minimalism, German Post-Expressionism, American post-war abstraction and Pop Art**. The Museo Reina Sofía is preparing a catalogue in Spanish and English for the exhibition which will include texts by various authors, a documentary appendix, and a list of works on display.



VINCENT VAN GOGH  
*Jardin de Daubigny*, 1890  
 Oil on canvas  
 56 x 101.5 cm  
 Rudolf Staechelin Collection  
 Photograph: Kunstmuseum Basel, Martin P. Bühler

The second exhibition is ***Collecting and Modernism. Two Case Studies: Im Obersteg and Rudolf Staechelin Collections***. This is the first time these collections have been shown together outside Basle. The **62 paintings**, which will be exhibited on the fourth floor of the Sabatini Building, will offer a unique opportunity to see acknowledged masterpieces in Madrid that have never before been shown in Spain. They include works by **Gauguin, Van Gogh, Renoir, Redon, Pissarro, Picasso, Manet, Modigliani, Monet, Cézanne, Chagall, Soutine, Jawlensky and Hodler**.

The two collections have a shared history and have been described as “sister collections”. They were created by two eminent collectors and friends, **Rudolf Staechelin** (1881-1946) and **Karl Im Obersteg** (1883-1969). Staechelin began in 1914 to collect modern French art of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while Obersteg devoted himself from 1916 onwards to collecting modernist masterpieces.



GERHARD RICHTER  
*Motorboat*, 1965  
 Oil on canvas  
 170 x 170 cm  
 Kunstmuseum Basel, donation of the Hanspeter Schulthess-Oeri Fonds  
 Photography: Kunstmuseum Basel, Martin P. Bühler

**Together, the two collections provide a perspective on modern figurative painting from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until about 1940.** The quality of the two collections is clear from works like **Vincent Van Gogh's *Jardin de Daubigny* (*Daubigny's Garden*, 1890)** or **Pablo Picasso's *Buveuse d'Absinthe* (*Absinthe Drinker*, 1910)** and ***Arlequin au loup* (*Harlequin with Mask*, 1918)**, all of which can be seen at the Museo Reina Sofía. Also on display will be three portraits of Jewish figures painted by **Marc Chagall** in 1914. These key pieces of the Im Obersteg Collection have left Switzerland only once before, for an exhibition in Vienna in 2013.

## **Nafea Faa Ipoipo , an oil painting by Paul Gauguin**



PAUL GAUGUIN  
*NAFEA faa ipoipo (When will you get married?)*, 1892  
Oil on canvas  
101,5 x 77,5 cm  
Rudolf Staechelin Collection  
Photography: Kunstmuseum Basel, Martin P. Böhler

Among the works on display in the show *Collecting and Modernism. Two Case Studies: Im Obersteg and Rudolf Staechelin Collections*, viewers will be able to see one of the finest works by Paul Gauguin (Paris, 1848-Atuona, French Polynesia, 1903). This is ***Nafea Faa Ipoipo*** (*When Will You Marry?*), an oil painting dating from 1892. *Nafea Faa Ipoipo* will join the exhibition at the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid in early July.

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