

Lindau Tourism Press Release

February 2020

Paula Modersohn-Becker & Otto Modersohn in Lindau

Art museum at the island train station displays „Paula & Otto – Evolution in Art and Love“ in 2020

With works by Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876–1907) and Otto Modersohn (1865–1943) the Art Museum Lindau will present the most important German artist couple of the early 20th century and show the fascinating theme of love and art in the transition to modernity. With selected pieces from private collections, art foundations and museums, works by two outstanding artist personalities will be brought into an exciting dialogue. Moreover, for the first time, the Lindau exhibition series will turn its focus to a pioneering female artist of the modern age. The exhibition will be supported by the Paula Modersohn Becker Foundation and the Otto Modersohn Foundation. Lindau's Art Museum thus continues its series on artists of the modern age.

Similar motives, different pictures

Otto Modersohn was already an established landscape painter and chief representative of the Worpsweder artists' colony when he met the young, cheerful and highly talented Paula Becker in 1899. Their art-centred marriage was shaped by deep affection, great mutual respect and an intense exchange about artistic themes. They shared a taste for the progressive painting of the French and each one applied it differently in their own pictures. While Otto painted great mood pictures of nature, modelled after the French plein air painting and preferably worked in rural seclusion, Paula was especially interested in the presentation of people in open contact with colours and simplified forms. She, too, valued the peaceful landscape around Worpswede, but again and again she was drawn to the pulsating art metropolis of Paris, where she evolved her style and created masterpieces of early modernity.

The exhibition impressively illuminates how exceptionally modern this artist relationship was for the time around 1900, and how Paula and Otto always succeeded in bravely meeting the inevitable challenges of the times before Paula's premature death in 1907 at the age of only 31 years and at the height of her prolificity.

Paula Modersohn-Becker – female protagonist of modernism

With this special exhibition, the Art Museum Lindau is not only focusing its attention on an artist relationship that is unusually modern for the time, but also, for the first time, on a woman as a protagonist of modernism. The talented painter confidently continued to pursue her own style, although she received little recognition in the male-dominated art world of the time – with the exception of her husband, who recognized early on how pioneeringly modern his wife's art was. It is thanks to his support that Paula is today considered a pioneer of modernism with her outstanding art.

Important information at a glance

"Paula & Otto – Evolution in Art and Love" can be visited from 4 April to 27 September 2020 in the Lindau Art Museum at the island train station (Maximilianstraße 52, 88131 Lindau). The museum is open daily from 10 to 18 o'clock. The special exhibition presents top-class loans from the Paula Modersohn Becker Foundation (Bremen), the Otto Modersohn Foundation (Fischerhude) as well as works from renowned museums and private collections.

About Lindau on Lake Constance: the heart of the Bavarian Riviera

Lindau is an island- and garden-town with a Mediterranean flair and home to some 26,000 residents. It is situated on the eastern shore of Lake Constance in the tri-border region of Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Its distinctive harbour entrance, lined with the 'New Lighthouse' and the majestic 'Bavarian Lion', is the landmark of this picturesque town.

Press photos:

On request, the Lindau Cultural Office will gladly provide you with the following pictures:



Paula Modersohn-Becker, Portrait of a girl with hand spread in front of her breast, around 1905,
© Von der Heydt-Museum Wuppertal / Foto: Antje Zeis-Loi, Medienzentrum Wuppertal



Otto Modersohn, Summer landscape with Elsbeth and Paula Modersohn, 1902,
© Paula-Modersohn-Becker-Stiftung, Bremen



Paula and Otto Modersohn in their garden in front of the veranda, around 1904,
© Paula-Modersohn-Becker-Stiftung Bremen

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