

Lentos Kunstmuseum

Cornelia Gurlitt & Anton Kolig

A Journey of Hearts

05.05. to 13.08.2023

The exhibition illuminates the kindred spirits of the expressionist graphic artist Cornelia Gurlitt and the expressive painter Anton Kolig. Long-hidden works by Cornelia Gurlitt, whose oeuvre has never been shown to this extent in Austria, and early works by Anton Kolig are brought into artistic dialogue for the first time.

Cornelia Gurlitt (1890–1919), daughter of the Dresden art historian Cornelius Gurlitt and sister of the art historian Hildebrand Gurlitt, “Hitler’s art dealer”, was a graphic artist associated with German Expressionism, possessing talent and ambition in equal measure. The young artist, who was stationed as a nurse on the Eastern Front in Vilna (present-day Vilnius) during the First World War, was not destined to live to see her brother’s rise to the highest ranks of National Socialist art bureaucracy. In 1919, she committed suicide at the age of 29.

“With each one I abandoned, a piece of my soul perished,” writes Paul Fechter in his romantic novel “Die Gärten des Lebens” (The Gardens of Life) twenty years after Cornelia Gurlitt’s suicide. Was it her tragic love affair with the art critic and writer, who was also stationed in Vilna, that drove the artist to such an untimely death?

In Anton Kolig’s (1886–1950) official biography, Cornelia Gurlitt whom he met in 1913 in Paris or Dresden where the painter was residing, has so far remained hidden. He presented his “Erstes Selbstbildnis” (First Self-Portrait) executed in 1915 to his devoted girlfriend and dedicated to her one of his major expressive works, “Klage” (Lament). Very little is known about the relationship between the two artists who were bound by a spiritual affinity. In 1919, Kolig undertook the painting “Frau mit Fächer” (Woman with Fan), which he would keep by his side for the rest of his life, in gratitude and memory of Cornelia.

Works, long hidden from public view, by Cornelia Gurlitt whose oeuvre has never before been exhibited on this scale in Austria, and early works by Anton Kolig will be brought into dialogue for the very first time.

The exhibition was created in cooperation with the Kunstmuseum Bern, the Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History, Vilnius and private lenders.

Curators:

Program

Opening

Thur 04.05., 7pm

Opening with Hemma Schmutz (Lentos Directorin), Elisabeth Nowak-Thaller (Curator), Hubert Portz (Curatur), Doris Lang-Mayerhofer(Kulturstadträtin). Free admission

Guided Tours

Guided Tour with the Curator

Thur 01.06.23, 6pm

Elisabeth Nowak-Thaller and Hurbert Portz jointly guide through the exhibition curated by them.
Guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission, registration required +43 732 7070 3614
or kunstvermittlung@lentos.at

Expert Guided Tour

Thur 01.06.23, 6pm

Lecture by Anton Kolig expert Otmar Rychlik in the exhibition.
Guided tour ticket € 4 plus admission, registration required +43 732 7070 3614
or kunstvermittlung@lentos.at

Event

20 Years Lentos | Birthday Party

Thur 25.05. 5pm

With Afterwork Happy Hour, DJ and Live Sound, and: Opening of the new exhibition "Sisters & Brothers". Bring your friends & family, it will be celebrated!

Facts & Figures

Exhibition title	Cornelia Gurlitt & Anton Kolig A Journey of Hearts
Exhibition duration	05.05. to 13.08.2023
Curators	Hubert Portz (Kunsthaus Désirée, Hochstadt/Pfalz) und Elisabeth Nowak-Thaller (Lentos)
Exhibits	about 30 works from Cornelia Gurlitt about 60 works from Anton Kolig
Opening hours	Tue–Sun 10am–6pm Uhr, Thu 10am–8pm Monday closed, You will find special opening hours on www.lentos.at
Admission	€ 11, reduced € 9 / € 5
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Images

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