

GEORG BASELITZ

MAIN GALLERIES

22 September – 9 December 2007

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The distinguished German artist, **Georg Baselitz**, is celebrated in a major retrospective at the Royal Academy of Arts. Featuring over 60 paintings together with a significant number of drawings, prints and sculptures, the exhibition offers a comprehensive survey of Baselitz's most important work. These works come from over 30 lenders, mainly in Europe, and therefore provide a unique opportunity to consider his achievement over five decades. Baselitz, who featured in a major way in the seminal 1981 exhibition *A New Spirit in Painting* at the Royal Academy, which introduced his work to a British audience, is an Honorary RA. This is his first retrospective in England since the exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1983.

Born 1938 in Deutschbaselitz, Saxony, Georg Baselitz has been acclaimed as one of Germany's most prolific and well-known artists. Baselitz is perhaps best known for painting his motifs upside down as a strategy to free the subject matter from its content. However, his early figurative work deals with existential problems of being in Germany at a period where abstraction largely holds sway. Aggressive and frequently disturbing, Baselitz's work incorporates semi abstract figures, animals and landscape within a canvas of colour and liberated brushwork. His works project a sense of hostility and isolation in a style that remains distinctive.

Painter, draftsman, printmaker and sculptor, Baselitz began studying painting at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in East Berlin in 1956 but was expelled after only one term because of 'social-political immaturity'. After moving to West Berlin in 1956 Baselitz resumed his artistic studies in 1957 completing them in 1962.

Influenced in his early years by the artistic works and writings of influential artists and theorists such as Kandinsky, Malevich, Nietzsche, Baudelaire, Samuel Beckett and the French writer and artist Antonin Artaud, Baselitz later became deeply involved and inspired by art produced by the mentally ill and others at odds with society. His work has been equally informed by traditional African art, French and Italian Mannerist painting, printmaking of the sixteenth century as well as a profound sense of ornament and decoration.

The exhibition commences with some of Baselitz's earliest works, made around 1962, such as *Die Große Nacht im Eimer (The Big Night Down the Drain)* and the Hero paintings *Der neue Typ (The New Type)*. This is followed by outstanding examples of his 'Fracture' paintings made at the end of the 1960s, leading up to the first so-called 'upside down' paintings such as *Der Mann am Baum, 1969 (The Man at the Tree)*. With this work, Baselitz found a new language that enabled him to combine principles of abstraction with those of realism as well as philosophically 'standing the world on its head' which was to serve as a metaphor and 'Leitmotiv' for much of his subsequent art. The exhibition also demonstrates his return recently to motifs explored in his early career. These are done in a more transparent linear manner, which he calls *Remixes*. There are also important sculptures in the exhibition, particularly *Model for a Sculpture* that was shown at the Venice Biennale in 1980 where it caused a considered sensation.

ORGANISATION

Georg Baselitz is curated by Sir Norman Rosenthal, Exhibitions Secretary at the Royal Academy of Arts.

SPONSOR

Eurohypo is an internationally leading commercial real estate bank headquartered in Germany and represented in 25 countries world-wide. This presence affords us a unique insight into market trends and combines property finance and investment banking skills with local market know how. Eurohypo is pleased to sponsor the retrospective of **Georg Baselitz** at the Royal Academy of Arts and to affirm its commitment to the UK and philanthropic activity.

MEDIA PARTNER

THE  INDEPENDENT

CATALOGUE

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensively illustrated catalogue which explores Georg Baselitz's development, revealing an artist whose concerns are derived from his experiences of post-war German society. The catalogue includes essays by Sir Norman Rosenthal, Exhibitions Secretary at the Royal Academy of Arts, Richard Shiff, Effie Marie Cain Regents Chair in Art and Director of the Center for the Study of Modernism at The University of Texas at Austin, Carla Schulz-Hoffmann, Deputy Director General of the Bavarian State Collections and Chief Curator of the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich and Shulamith Behr, Senior Lecturer in German twentieth-century art at the Courtauld Institute of Art.

DATES AND OPENING HOURS

Press View: 18 September 2007, 10am – 2pm

Open to Public: 22 September 2007 – 9 December 2007
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night openings: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

ADMISSION

£10 full price; £8 Registered Disabled and 60 + years; £7 NUS / ISIC cardholders; £3 12–18 years and Income Support; £2 8–11 years; 7 and under free.

TICKETS

For advance tickets to **Georg Baselitz** please visit www.royalacademy.org.uk or call +44 (0)870 848 8484. Groups of 10 or more must book in advance call 020 7300 8027 or email: groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk

IMAGES

Publicity images for **Georg Baselitz** can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.papicselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

For public information, please print 020 7300 8000 or www.royalacademy.org.uk.
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