

Press Kit

63rd Annual Exhibition, Seebüll 2019

Emil Nolde – “PEOPLE ARE MY PICTURES”

Gallery: The painter's ceramics

1 March – 30 November, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

Contents:

Press release for the 63rd Annual Exhibition

Donation of the painting “Small Sunflowers”

Exhibition layout

Numbers and facts

‘Listed building’ modernisation of the Seebüll residence- and studio house

Exhibition “Emil Nolde – A German Legend. The artist and the Nazi Regime”

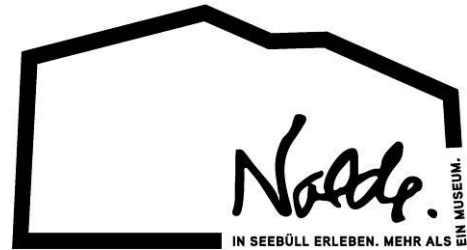
Biographical overview

Visitor information

Exhibition curators

Press photos

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PRESS RELEASE FOR THE OPENING OF THE 63RD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE NOLDE FOUNDATION SEEBÜLL

EMIL NOLDE – “PEOPLE ARE MY PICTURES”

Gallery: The painter’s ceramics

1 March to 30 November 2019

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

The 63rd Annual Exhibition at Seebüll takes an intensive look at depictions of people in Emil Nolde’s work. A total of around 120 pieces, many being publicly shown for the first time, provide visitors to the residence- and studio house Seebüll with insight into his diverse work. One of the highlights is the donation of a painting from his late work: “Small Sunflowers”, 1946. One gallery, showing thirty-three pieces, is dedicated to the painter’s ceramics. This will be the final opportunity to see the house in its present condition. For the year 2020, the Nolde Foundation Seebüll is preparing a ‘listed building’ modernisation and technical retrofit of the residence- and studio house Seebüll.

Besides Emil Nolde’s works depicting flowers, landscapes and seas, a significant place in his extensive oeuvre is occupied by paintings portraying people and figures. Right from the beginning of his artistic production these are found throughout all of his genres, in paintings, watercolours, drawings and prints. In his writings and letters, Nolde himself emphasised the importance of this group of works several times:

“People are my pictures”, he wrote in his autobiography.

Emil Nolde was not a portrait artist in the true sense. Pure representationalism was not important to him. The paintings illustrate the artist’s gaze upon the people portrayed; they reveal how he experienced them and particularly how he felt about them. In depicting his models, he went beyond the surface and portrayed their characters and personal characteristics as well. The paintings tell of interpersonal encounters and familial experiences, of the tension between the sexes, but especially too of feelings like love, desire, fear, astonishment and curiosity.

Nolde’s figurative works pertain to the fundamental circumstances of human existence. They are the ground in which his creativity takes root; they are nature observed, transcribed, altered, sometimes dreamed or enhanced, but always as a distinct and lively presence. When Nolde writes in his autobiography: “People are my pictures. Laugh, rejoice, weep or be happy, you are my pictures, and the sound of your voices, the essence of your natures in all their variety, you are colours to the painter”, then according to Dr. Christian Ring, Director of the Nolde Foundation Seebüll, “he places us as humans – in all of our diversity – at the centre of his art, and in such a way that even today the images or portrayed feelings may still be something we can identify with, and in which we can see ourselves. A superb artist such as Emil Nolde could give us no better gift”.

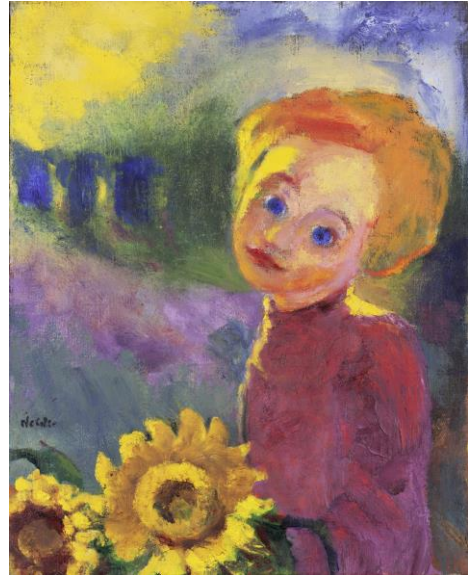
We wish you much joy on your journey of experience and discovery!

Dr. Christian Ring
Director of the Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation Seebüll

A museum guide for the 63rd Annual Exhibition, Emil Nolde. People are my pictures, 72 pages, 7.50 Euro, will be available at the Foundation by mid-March, 2019.

EMIL NOLDE: “SMALL SUNFLOWERS”, PAINTING 1946

**DONATED BY DR. FRIEDRICH JOHENNING
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS WIFE RENATE JOHENNING**



“Small Sunflowers”, painting 1946
© Nolde Stiftung Seebüll

The highlight of the 63rd Annual Exhibition is the outstanding painting “Small Sunflowers” from the year 1946. An important late work, it can be traced to one of the so-called “Unpainted Pictures”, and glows with a special magic. It epitomises pure harmony, both in its colour composition as well as in the appearance of the girl with the two sunflowers. This enchanted painting, with its brightness and warmth, seems to come to us from another world and sets us dreaming. The painting only recently came to enrich the Nolde Foundation Seebüll’s collection, as a donation from Dr. Friedrich Johenning. Together with his wife Renate, who passed away in 2018, Dr. Friedrich Johenning, a Düsseldorf businessman, built up an extraordinary collection of German Expressionist works over the past forty years, with a main focus on Emil Nolde. In loving memory of his wife Renate, he has donated the painting “Small Sunflowers” to the Nolde Foundation Seebüll.

Dr. Hans-Joachim Throl, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, gratefully acknowledges the donation: “Our foundation’s Board of Trustees has accepted this donation with the utmost gratitude, and has taken the irrevocable decision to add the painting to the inalienable inventory of works left by Emil Nolde which are a part of the endowment assets of the Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation Seebüll. The wonderful painting ‘Small Sunflowers’ will thereby forever remain in the care of our foundation. And it will be inseparably connected with the memory of Dr. Friedrich Johenning and his dear wife Renate, who both so loved to visit Seebüll together.”

Dr. Christian Ring, Director of the Nolde Foundation, added: “Dr. Friedrich Johenning’s contribution touches us deeply and we are more than thankful. It is the most significant donation to be bestowed upon the Nolde Foundation Seebüll in its sixty-three year history. This donation is also a symbol of the trust placed in us, and of the high regard in which our work is held. This fills us with pride, and with great gratitude towards Renate and Dr. Friedrich Johenning”.

The donation will be honoured in a publication of its own, which will appear in May.



Details of the work:

Emil Nolde, "Small Sunflowers", 1946
oil on canvas, 70 x 56 cm
signed lower left, "Nolde"
catalogue raisonné Urban 1274

Provenance:

Georg Rieve (1958)
private collection
Villa Grisebach, Berlin, Auction 144, "Selected Works", 8 June 2007, Lot 38
Renate and Friedrich Jochenning, Düsseldorf

Exhibitions:

1956 Odense, Fyns Stiftsmuseum: *Emil Nolde*, no. 33
1956/57 Kiel, Kunsthalle: *Emil Nolde. Gedächtnisausstellung*, no. 39
1967 Flensburg, Städtisches Museum: *Emil Nolde in Flensburg zum 100. Geburtstag des Künstlers*, no. 8
2012 Düsseldorf, Beck & Eggeling Fine Art: *Eine Deutsche Privatsammlung*
2014 Frankfurt/Main, Städel Museum: *Emil Nolde. Retrospektive*, no. 140
2014 Humlebaek, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art: *Emil Nolde. Retrospective*, no. 140

Literature:

Exh. cat. Fyns Stiftsmuseum, Odense 1956: *Emil Nolde*, no. 33 (cover illustration)
Exh. Cat. Kunsthalle Kiel 1956/57: *Emil Nolde. Gedächtnisausstellung*, no. 39
Art calender: *Die Tide*, 1958 (title page)
Art calender: *Abendländische Kunst*, 1960
Art. Das Kunstmagazin, 2007, no. 6, p. 135
Weltkunst, 2007, no. 5, pp. 99, 120
Auct. cat. Villa Grisebach, *Auktion 144*, 8 June 2007, no. 38
Exh. cat. Düsseldorf, Beck & Eggeling Fine Art 2012: *Eine Deutsche Privatsammlung*, p. 133
Exh. cat. Frankfurt/Main, Städel Museum; Humlebaek, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art 2014: *Emil Nolde. Retrospective*, pp. 140, 229, 277 (published in German, Danish and English)