

PRESS RELEASE

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Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne (MCBA)

Three months after the inauguration: positive results and exhibition program

Three months after opening in its new building, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne (MCBA) is showing positive results with around 74'000 visitors from all over Switzerland and abroad coming to take in the new museum and its inaugural show, "Atlas. Cartographie du don" (Atlas. A Cartography of Donation). The theme-oriented show, which runs until 12 January 2020, was designed to spark a novel dialogue among the artworks making up the collection while paying absolutely no mind to period distinctions. Starting 13 January, the museum be closed for one month to optimize the current installations.

The first temporary international show will feature the Viennese artists around Klimt, Schiele and Kokoschka, and their contribution to modern art. Opening in mid-February, the exhibition will mark the starting point of a varied program that includes the permanent display of the museum collection starting in mid-March and eight other shows scheduled before the end of 2020. The collection and certain temporary formats will be open to all free of charge.

Since early April 2019 when the museum literally closed up shop at the former address, MCBA Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne has moved into its new quarters in the PLATEFORME 10 arts neighborhood near the city's main train station. The museum, is pleased to announce, is currently featuring its inaugural exhibition "Atlas. Cartographie du don" (Atlas. A Cartography of Donation), which opened in early October and runs until 12 January 2020. "Atlas" highlights the many gifts and permanent loans that have been made to the museum over many years while offering visitors a new perspective on its vast collection through eleven individual themes spread throughout the galleries. The museum's director Bernard Fibicher is also the curator of the show. His thematic presentation brings together works from a variety of periods and formal approaches in a novel way, thanks to which the show has exceeded all expectations in numbers of visitors. MCBA has demonstrated that its three floors of exhibition space (3200 m²) respond to the most demanding requirements of exhibition design, lighting, and presentation.

Positive numbers

During the museum's inaugural week in early October with its many previews, special

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admission day for schools, and very first weekend, some 19'000 visitors came through the museum doors. That unqualified success, moreover, continues unabated. Over the last three months MCBA has welcomed 74'000 visitors (around 1'000 entries per day). The statistics also make clear that interest in the museum goes well beyond the canton's borders (70% of the visitors have come from the Canton of Vaud, 20% from the rest of Switzerland, and finally 10% from abroad).

A one-month closure to optimize the museum's installations

When the inaugural exhibition ends on 12 January 2020, the museum will close its doors for just over a month until reopening for its first major temporary show on 14 February 2020. Because the start-up period for the museum's installations and organization of spaces was relatively short (April to October), they now need to be fine-tuned to ensure the smooth running of the institution, which will soon be hosting series of shows at a steady rate.

A varied program

The first temporary international show will open to the public on 14 February 2020. "À fleur de peau. Vienne 1900, de Klimt à Schiele et Kokoschka" (Under the Skin. Vienna 1900, from Klimt to Schiele and Kokoschka) is an exhibition dedicated to modernist Viennese art, and with it MCBA will be presenting the first in a strong program of shows. "Vienna 1900" boasts over 170 works of art from a significant number of renowned collections and museums.

Works include paintings, drawings sculptures, and objects from the applied arts.

While this temporary show is on view, the museum will be making the final preparations for putting the museum collection on permanent display. Starting 13 March 2020 and for the next two or three years, the public will be able to enjoy all these works free of charge.

Meanwhile, a new kind of show, "Espace Focus," will highlight different aspects of the collection three times a year.

With the same frequency each year, "Espace Projet" will survey contemporary Swiss and international art. An exhibition called "Taus Makhacheva. 4224,92 cm² de Degas" will open to the public at the same time as the permanent collection. Dreamed up for MCBA by the artist Taus Makhacheva (*1983), a native of Dagestan, the show will focus on humans' relationship to the past, culture, identities and their shifts, as reflected in the MCBA collections.

MCBA is also very much involved in supporting the region's contemporary art scene. Indeed, it will come up with a new platform dedicated to contemporary art. In June of 2020, MCBA will launch "Jardin d'Hiver," a biennial exhibition that will start as a call for proposals by invitation. Entrusted to an outside curator, each iteration of the "Jardin d'Hiver" aims not only to support artists of the region and draw attention to them by exhibiting their work, but also to vary the perspectives on artmaking in the Canton of Vaud by letting a specialist who is not part of the MCBA staff to work within its walls.

MUSÉE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS LAUSANNE

Place within the Swiss museum landscape

The permanent collection and the two “Espaces” will be free to the public. As is clear on the museum website, MCBA is determined to make art accessible to the greatest number thanks to its different types of exhibitions. Visitors, moreover, have several options for taking a self-guided tour, with a downloadable app, the iPads provided at the museum, or the traditional paper guide that is available in three languages (French, German, and English). MCBA will soon be awarded a “Culture inclusive” label. With its freely accessible permanent collection, program of exhibitions, role as a Competence Center by the foundations Félix Vallotton and Toms Pauli, and location within the unique arts neighborhood that is PLATEFORME 10, the new Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts of Lausanne now occupies a privileged spot in the landscape of Swiss museums.

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Images to download <https://www.mcba.ch/presse/>



MCBA, inauguration in octobre,
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MCBA, exhibition spaces « Atlas »,
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MCBA, *Crocodile* (2019, Xavier Veilhan
and Olivier Mosset), ©Dominik Gehl

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