

22 September 2026

Cesar Klein. Image Space Stage

Exhibition from 15 October 2026 to 29 March 2027

The PRESS PREVIEW for the exhibition, to which we cordially invite you, will take place on Wednesday, 14 October 2026, 11 am, at the Bröhan Museum.

Cesar Klein (1876–1954) was a modern universal artist who crossed the boundaries between fine and applied art with impressive versatility. His oeuvre encompassed not only painting and graphic art, but also interior architecture as well as the design of mosaics, stained-glass windows, furniture and porcelain. In addition, as a stage designer and film set designer, he played a major role in shaping Berlin's cultural life during the Weimar Republic.

As a visual artist, Klein played a decisive role in the most important avant-garde movements of the pre-war and interwar periods. In 1910, he was among the first members of the Neue Secession, together with Expressionist artists such as Max Pechstein. Klein turned down an appointment to the newly founded Bauhaus in 1919. Instead, he took over the management of a class for decorative painting at the Berlin School of the Kunstgewerbemuseum, deepened his contacts within the worlds of art and theatre, and in the 1920s became a sought-after stage designer and spatial designer – influential both for Expressionist theatre and for the formal language of German Art Deco. During the Nazi era, Klein lost his professorship, was banned from painting and defamed as “degenerate”; numerous works were removed from public collections. He was able to continue working exclusively in the field of stage design. After the Second World War, he once again devoted himself intensively to painting and created an impressive late oeuvre.

Klein's career illustrates the outstanding role of Berlin from the 1910s onwards. For this career was shaped by Berlin, but could also only have been possible in Berlin. Cesar Klein was deeply involved in Berlin's rise to become Germany's undisputed cultural capital during the Weimar Republic. As an important painter of German Expressionism, he drew on an understanding of art shaped by the English Arts and Crafts movement, according to which artists should also work in the applied arts and devote themselves to the design of objects and spaces. Thus, in the capital, he created interior designs for cinemas and theatres and worked as a scenographer and stage designer for film and theatre productions.

Cesar Klein is undoubtedly one of the most important representatives of Berlin Modernism, both in the field of fine art and in the applied arts. Nevertheless, no monographic exhibition has yet been dedicated to him in Berlin. The artist's 150th birthday now provides the occasion to honour his oeuvre with a large-scale exhibition in Berlin – featuring around 200 high-calibre loans.

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PRESSEMITTEILUNG

The realisation of the project is made possible with funds from the Capital Cultural Fund. Supported by the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation: "We are delighted to be able to support the extensive catalogue accompanying this exceptional exhibition project. Cesar Klein and Siemens – this is not an abstract story of patronage. It is a close connection that is still manifested in stone today. In 1913, Cesar Klein designed the impressive marble mosaic floor for the Berlin headquarters of the former Siemens & Halske AG, which has survived to this day," says Dr Martin Hoernes, Secretary General of the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation. Supported by the Freundeskreis Cesar Klein e.V.

With its financial support, the TheaterGemeinde Berlin has made possible the reconstruction of a stage set by Cesar Klein.

Media partners: Wall GmbH, rbb24 Inforadio, radio3, tip, The Berliner, Dinamix

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Exhibition opening

Wed, 14 Oct, 6 pm, no registration required

Free public guided tours (plus museum admission)

every Saturday, 3 pm, no registration required

Free public curator-led tours (plus museum admission)

Sun, 1 Nov, 10 Jan, 21 Feb, 4 pm, no registration required

Making Theatre! Lecture followed by a discussion, accompanied by music and puppetry

Sat, 14 Nov, 6 pm, admission free, no registration required

Culture for All! Discussion, accompanied by music

Thu, 4 Feb, 6 pm, admission free, no registration required

Stage Sets and Scenic Spaces. Discussion

Fri, 26 Feb, 6 pm, admission free, no registration required

Dear Rhythm. Musical Tribute to Cesar Klein

Fri, 12 Mar, 6 pm, admission free, no registration required

Free "Family Sundays"

every 3rd Sunday of the month, 11 am, for children (5–12 years)

and their families, 90 min., registration required at: vermittlung@broehan-museum.de, Tel: 030/32690625

Autumn, winter and Easter holiday courses for children

further information: www.jugend-im-museum.de

School programme accompanying the exhibition

further information: www.broehan-museum.de/vermittlung

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

Mosaic Workshop

Let yourself be inspired by the vibrant colours and ornamental designs of Cesar Klein and create your own mosaic under professional guidance. Step by step, colourful ceramic and porcelain fragments are transformed into a unique work of art to take home.

Sat, 31 Oct / 7 Nov / 21 Nov / 5 Dec / 9 Jan / 23 Jan / 6 Feb / 27 Feb / 6 Mar / 20 Mar, 2–5 pm
16 years and over, €89 per person incl. museum admission and workshop materials, limited number of participants. No prior knowledge is required. Binding registration required no later than three days before the selected date at: vermittlung@broehan-museum.de, Tel: 030/32690625

After Work Mosaic

Experience the exhibition after opening hours and create your own mosaic in an exclusive atmosphere. Enjoy a special creative evening at the museum in a small group, accompanied by an after-work drink.

15 Jan or 19 Feb, 5–8 pm, 16 years and over, €95 per person incl. museum admission and workshop materials, limited number of participants. No prior knowledge is required. Binding registration required no later than three days before the selected date at: vermittlung@broehan-museum.de, Tel: 030/32690625

Happy Wednesday

Reduced admission every first Wednesday of the month

Bookable guided tours for groups

You can book individual guided tours of our exhibitions. Whether a group tour, curator-led tour or exclusive evening tour, we offer the right option.

Duration: 60 min, costs: €80/€120/€200 (plus museum admission)

Further information and registration at: www.broehan-museum.de/vermittlung

Curator of the exhibition: Dr Anna Grosskopf

Exhibition design: Katleen Arthen

Press and Public Relations: Corinna Kleis M.A.

Education and Outreach: Nils Martin Müller M.A.

Press and Public Relations/Education and Outreach Assistant: Fadila Yassouf M.A.

Opening hours: Tue to Sun from 11 am to 6 pm and on all public holidays (closed 24 and 31 Dec)

Admission: €9, reduced €6

Happy Wednesday: Every 1st Wednesday of the month, a flat admission price of €4 applies to everyone.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.broehan-museum.de/service or on site.

A catalogue accompanying the exhibition will be published by DCV Verlag: 248 pages, numerous illustrations. Price: €28 at the museum ticket desk

Enquiries, including requests for further information and image material, please contact Corinna Kleis,

E-mail: pr@broehan-museum.de