

PRESS RELEASE

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2 October 2025

Havel Air and City Lights. City and Countryside in the Paintings of the Berlin Secession  
Exhibition from 17 October 2025 to 22 February 2026 at the Bröhan Museum, Berlin

The PRESS CONFERENCE for the exhibition, to which we cordially invite you, will take place on Wednesday, 15 October 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Bröhan Museum.

— Around 1900, the relationship between urban and rural areas underwent a fundamental change. Growing cities became centres of economic, social and cultural dynamism – a development that was particularly pronounced in Berlin, the still young capital of the German Empire. The influx of workers created new social milieus and led to tensions that shaped urban life. The hectic atmosphere, noise and cramped conditions of the big city awakened a growing longing for the countryside. The Berlin countryside with its lakes and pine forests – glorified in literature by Theodor Fontane and transformed into a 'land of quiet vastness' – offered an idyllic alternative world. Well connected by suburban trains operated by the Prussian State Railway, the Mark Brandenburg became a recreational area for Berliners weary of city life.

These developments are reflected in the art of the time, particularly in the works of the Berlin Secession. Founded in 1899, this group of artists, who turned their backs on the academic art world, dealt intensively with modernity and its contradictions, with industrialisation and urbanisation and the associated social tensions. At the same time, atmospheric depictions of the Mark Brandenburg landscape emerged, influenced by contemporary Impressionism and Symbolism.

The exhibition shows how urban life and rural idyll found expression in the art of the Berlin Secession. From the late 19th century to the early 1930s, it documents the dialogue between different worlds and reveals the complex relationship between city and countryside that was of crucial importance at the time. Works by Hans Baluschek, Käthe Kollwitz, Otto Nagel and Works by Hans Baluschek, Käthe Kollwitz, Otto Nagel and Willy Jaeckel, which addressed urban life and the social realities of Berlin, contrast with works by Karl Hagemeister, Walter Leistikow and Julie Wolfthorn, which capture the untouched magic of the Berlin countryside.

The exhibition "Havel Air and City Lights: City and Countryside in the Paintings of the Berlin Secession provides insight into a time of upheaval and illustrates the role of art as a mirror of social and cultural processes.

The exhibition is the last opportunity to see the paintings before the Bröhan Museum closes for renovation in spring 2027.

BRÖHAN MUSEUM

Schloßstraße 1a 14059 Berlin  
Telephone +49 (0)30/32690600  
Fax +49 (0)30/32690626  
info@broehan-museum.de

Foundation board :

DR. TOBIAS HOFFMANN  
Steuer-Nr.: 29/667/03422  
USt-IdNr.: DE269447984

befreit nach § 4 Nr. 20a UStG

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Media partner: Wall GmbH, radio3, Dinamix, tip, The Berliner

## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

### Exhibition opening

Thursday, 16 October, 6 p.m., no registration required

### Free public tours (plus museum admission) every Saturday at 3 p.m.

No registration required.

### Digital curator tour

On Friday, 17 October, at 6 p.m., there will be a live tour on Instagram @broehan\_museum.

### Free 'Family Sundays'

every third Sunday of the month, 11 a.m., for children (aged 5–12) and their families, 90 minutes, registration required at: [vermittlung@broehan-museum.de](mailto:vermittlung@broehan-museum.de), tel: 030/32 69 06 25

### Painting salon – city or countryside

Immerse yourself in the paintings of the Berlin Secession and get creative yourself!

In our three-hour painting salon, you can choose between landscape painting or cityscapes.

Selected paintings from the exhibition serve as inspiration. Under professional guidance, you will create your own work of art.

No previous experience is required.

Landscape painting: Sat, 8 November/6 December/10 January/7 February, 2–5 p.m. each day

Cityscape: Sat, 22 November/20 December/24 January/21 February, 2–5 p.m. each day

Ages 16 and up, €65 per person, including admission and materials,

limited number of participants. Binding registration required at least three days before the selected date at: [vermittlung@broehan-museum.de](mailto:vermittlung@broehan-museum.de), tel: 030/32 69 06 25

### Art & Aperitif

Start the weekend in a relaxed manner: after our exclusive Friday tours of the exhibition, we will raise a glass together

Fri, 31 October: City & Country – Curator's tour

Fri, 14 November: Biographies of the works – Provenance research at the Bröhan Museum

Fri, 12 December: Scandals of the Berlin Secession

Fri, 9 January: The Berlin Secession and its enemies

Fri, 13 February: City & Country – Curator's tour

6 p.m. each day, tour includes a drink, €20 per person, limited number of participants, registration not required

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Curators of the exhibition: Dr Anna Grosskopf, Fabian Reifferscheidt M.A.

Curatorial assistant: Theresa Augustin M.A.

Exhibition design: Katleen Arthen

Press and public relations: Corinna Kleis M.A.

Education and outreach: Nils Martin Müller M.A.

— Assistant press and public relations/education and outreach: Fadila Yassouf M.A.

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on all public holidays  
(closed on 24 and 31 December)

Admission: €9, reduced €6

Happy Wednesday: Every first Wednesday of the month, a flat rate of €4 applies for everyone.

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Tickets can be purchased online at [www.broehan-museum.de/service](http://www.broehan-museum.de/service) or on site.

For enquiries, including further information and image material, please contact Corinna Kleis,  
email: [pr@broehan-museum.de](mailto:pr@broehan-museum.de)