

To the press, radio
 and television

Giovanni Giacometti. Colour in Light

Next to Ferdinand Hodler, Cuno Amiet and Félix Vallotton, Giovanni Giacometti (1868-1933) from Stampa belongs to the leading Swiss artists, who between Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and Fauvism absorbed the essential innovations of Modernism and developed them further. A formidable colouristic force emanates from his outstanding work. Although he made fundamental contributions to the renewal of Swiss painting in the early 20th century and is considered a remarkable personality of international status, nevertheless his art is still frequently underrated.

With over 70 paintings from museums and private ownership the focus is centred entirely on Giovanni Giacometti's ingenious, vibrating light orchestration. The artist was primarily concerned with rendering and intensifying the light and colour effect, which he achieved by placing brush strokes of unmixed - frequently of complementary - colours beside each other. The vistas onto the mountains and panoramas of the Bergell and the Upper Engadin are mostly bathed in glistening light.

From 1886 on Giovanni Giacometti from Stampa, Gaubünden, attended the arts and crafts college in Munich. While there he got to know Cuno Amiet with whom he maintained a life-long friendship. In 1888 he set off for Paris with Amiet, until a shortage of money forced him to return to the Bergell. Giacometti then got to know Segantini, who became his mentor. In 1900 Giacometti got married and settled in Borgonovo, where his son Alberto was born as the first child of four. Soon Giovanni Giacometti overcame the influence of Segantini due to his preoccupation with contemporary French painters. Through artistic emancipation he found his own style. Upon invitation by the artists of the "Brücke" he exhibited in Dresden in 1908. In 1912 he participated in the exhibition of the Sonderbund in Cologne. The same year Giacometti celebrated a big success at the Kunsthaus in Zürich.

More than ten years after the retrospective at the museums of Winterthur, Lausanne and Chur in 1996/97 Giovanni Giacometti's work is now presented and seen afresh from a special point of view.

Alongside the exhibition a comprehensive monograph is being published, which explores the artist's work under the aspect of his handling of light, and which positions it in the neighborhood of his international painting colleagues. More than 150 illustrations and four essays by renowned art critics and art historians set forth the central elements of his life and work.

Exhibition

March 27 to May 24, 2010

Tuesday to Sunday 10 – 5 pm, closed Monday.

Opening

Friday, March 26, 2010, 7 pm

Public Tours

On Thursday April 8, 15, 22 and 29, May 6 and 20, at 12.30 – 1.30 pm.

Publication

Giovanni Giacometti, Farbe im Licht, with contributions by Therese Bhattacharya-Stettler, Matthias Frehner, Viola Radlach, Beat Stutzer, 216 pages, 151 illustrations, of which 131 are in colour, 24 x 29 cm bound with book jacket, Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess, Zürich 2009, CHF 49.- / CHF 36.- for BKV-members.

Museum Education Programme

Introduction for Teachers

April 7, 5 pm to 7 pm, registration required

Colour and Light

For all school levels, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Registration required.

Workshops for Children

Workshop I

For children ages 6-8. April 7, 2 pm to 4 pm

Workshop II

For children ages 9-12. April 14, 2 pm to 4 pm

Atelier rumantsch

19 da matg, da las 14 fin las 16

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