"Now I am supposed to paint for the theatre again."
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Alpine Theatre Productions
28 May 2017 – 29 October 2017
Kirchner Museum Davos

The year 2017 is a major anniversary year for the Kirchner Museum Davos. In January of 1917 Ernst Ludwig Kirchner came to Davos for the first time. The health resort and the Alpine landscape in Grisons became Kirchner’s artistic home.

In 2017 we thus celebrate a century of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner in Davos. What is more, the Kirchner Museum Davos celebrates its 25-year anniversary in 2017. The museum building was built in 1992 by internationally known Zürich architects Annette Gigon and Mike Guyer. A no-frills, consistently designed building, it represents a milestone of international museum architecture.

We would like to take this double anniversary as an opportunity to look at Ernst Ludwig Kirchner’s special attachment to the landscape, the people and culture of Davos in an exhibition. For the first time, Kirchner’s activities as a theatre painter are being reconstructed and his contribution to Alpine theatre is presented in a multi-faceted exhibition.

In the period from 1920 until 1937, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner contributed to a total of seven theatre productions as set designer and theatre painter. He created five set designs for the community theatre of the mixed choir in Frauenkirch. The performances took place at Gasthof “Zum Sand”, an inn located at the entrance to the Sertig Valley. The barn belonging to the Gasthof was used for dances and theatrical performances. Kirchner also arranged an evening of dance featuring the young dancer Nina Hard at the Clavadel sanatorium in Zürich. And, finally, he did a scene painting for a theatre performance for children at the Davos-Sertig school in 1937.

The stage sets form an independent group of works in Kirchner’s oeuvre. They are commissioned works that followed the clear specifications of the plays themselves and the stage directions of the playwrights. The backdrops were made of hessian or burlap and under Kirchner’s supervision the canvases were primed and the paints were mixed. The sets were adapted for new uses and to meet the requirements of the various stage plays. Kirchner put his avant-garde stance aside and practiced applied art. Still, one finds many connections between his stagecraft and his prints and drawings.

For the duration of the exhibition, a gallery at the Kirchner Museum is transformed into a theatre. Paul Appenzeller’s 1920 Swiss folk play “Die Tochter vom Arvenhof oder Wie auch wir vergeben” (The Daughter from the Arvenhof, or How We, Too, Forgive) is staged at the museum in a modern version. As was customary during the performances at Gasthof “Zum Sand” in Frauenkirch, the audience is allowed to eat and drink during the show. The acting ensemble is made up of professional actors and amateurs from Switzerland, Austria, France/Norway and Germany.
EXHIBITION
28 May to 29 October 2017

OPENING TIMES
Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am – 6 pm
Monday closed

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS
Every Tuesday and Sunday at 4 pm

PRIVATE GUIDED TOURS
Please call +41 (0)81 410 63 00

Further information you will find on our website:
www.kirchnermuseum.ch

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