

Media release, 1st May 2020

The Fondation Beyeler will reopen from Monday, 11 May 2020. The exhibitions “Edward Hopper” and “Silent Vision – Images of Calm and Quiet” are extended through 26 July, the “Goya” exhibition is postponed.



From Monday, 11 May, the Fondation Beyeler will once again open daily, with an exhibition devoted to the great American painter Edward Hopper and the collection display “Silent Vision – Images of Calm and Quiet”. With the coronavirus crisis, both exhibitions have gained unexpected and dramatic currency. In view of high visitor interest, they have been extended through 26 July 2020. Tickets can be booked online from Thursday 7 May on www.fondationbeyeler.ch. The Fondation Beyeler has drawn up a comprehensive safety plan for visitors and employees in order to best implement the measures of the Swiss Confederation’s Covid-19 Ordinance. This includes limiting the number of visitors via online tickets with time slots as well as altering visitor flows in the park and in the museum with separate entry and exit points. All events are cancelled until further notice. Guided tours will take place in reduced form outside opening hours. The major “Goya” exhibition originally scheduled to open on 15 May is postponed. A new date will be announced in June.

Edward Hopper, a “painter for our times” of coronavirus crisis

In the seven weeks up to the museum’s temporary closure in the wake of the coronavirus crisis, the “Edward Hopper” exhibition drew more than 100’000 enthusiastic visitors. In this short space of time, “Edward Hopper” was well on its way to becoming the museum’s best attended exhibition ever. The

catalogue had sold out and had to be reprinted. Since then, many have taken to social media and contacting the museum to express their wish for the museum to reopen and the exhibition to be extended. Our partner the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York as well as the other American lenders have given their consent and the exhibition can therefore be extended in its original form.

Sam Keller, Director of the Fondation Beyeler, says: “We are happy to know that, on 11 May, our museum will wake from its ‘Sleeping Beauty’ slumber and its artworks will be ‘kissed’ back to life by visitors. We missed them. The ‘evil spell’ of coronavirus is not over yet, but the reopening of museums and parks is good news. Experiencing art and nature contributes in essential and proven ways to our mental and physical wellbeing and to life quality”.

During the coronavirus crisis, the international press and social media repeatedly referred to Edward Hopper as a painter for our times. Edward Hopper’s images are strongly reminiscent of situations and emotions currently experienced throughout the world: deserted cities and landscapes, physical and social distancing, isolation, loneliness, tense waiting and hoping, the enigmatic eeriness of our familiar surroundings, an invisible threat etc. (for example: “Warum Edward Hopper der Maler der Stunde ist” (Die Welt), “Wir alle sind jetzt Hopper Figuren: Das können wir vom amerikanischen Künstler über das Leben in der sozialen Isolation lernen” (Aargauer Zeitung), “Schön ist es trotzdem. Warum so viele Menschen Werke von Edward Hopper anschauen” (Süddeutsche Zeitung), “If the Beyeler Foundation had predicted pandemic and lockdown when planning this year’s spring and summer shows, it could hardly have come up with more apt artists: Edward Hopper, lyricist of modern isolation and alienation, followed by Goya, master of anxiety and nightmarish imagining.” (Financial Times Weekend).

A tribute by Wim Wenders

Renowned German filmmaker Wim Wenders has produced a 3D short film entitled *Two or Three Things I Know about Edward Hopper*, screened exclusively at the Fondation Beyeler. The film is Wenders’ personal tribute to Edward Hopper, who made a lasting impression on him and influenced his cinematic work just as he influenced other major directors, from Alfred Hitchcock to Roman Polanski. Under the terms of the Fondation Beyeler’s safety plan, the screening space can only welcome a very limited number of viewers: tickets for Wim Wenders’ film must therefore now be booked online.

“Silent Vision – Images of Calm and Quiet”

The collection display “Silent Vision – Images of Calm and Quiet” is also extended through 26 July. It focuses on works of modern and contemporary art dealing with various aspects of calm and quiet in art – still lifes, contemplative landscapes, images of sleep and final rest. The exhibition showcases over 100 works by Claude Monet, Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Fernand Léger, Piet Mondrian, Hans Arp, Alberto Giacometti, Mark Rothko, Andy Warhol, Richard Serra, Gerhard Richter, Marlene Dumas and many others. During the forced interruption of the coronavirus crisis, this exhibition has also gained new significance. Whoever yearns for a contemplative, emotionally sustaining museum visit will find great strength in silently viewing these images of calm and quiet.

“Goya” exhibition: only a matter of time

Due to the coronavirus crisis, the Fondation Beyeler’s major “Goya” exhibition, originally scheduled from 17 May to 16 August, has been postponed. Developed over several years of cooperation with the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid, it brings together seldom seen paintings, drawings and prints from Spanish private collections and key works from prestigious European and American museums and private collections. Given the uncertain situation and the restrictions on international lending activities, new exhibition dates have not yet been confirmed. We should be able to announce them in June.

Visitor and staff safety is our first priority

Now as ever, the safety of our visitors and employees remains our first priority. The Fondation Beyeler has therefore drawn up a comprehensive safety plan in order to implement the Swiss Federal Council’s Covid-19 Ordinances and introduce further measures to optimise visitor flow. This includes:

- Limiting visitor numbers through online tickets with time slots, which can be booked from Thursday, 7 May on www.fondationbeyeler.ch. This also applies to all valid tickets already purchased as well as to holders of vouchers, memberships and the BaselCard. More information is available on our website.
- Modified visitor flow in the park and in the museum with separate entry and exit points
- New welcome desk and cloakroom in museum outbuildings
- Hand sanitiser dispensers for visitors and employees in several key locations within the museum
- Additional cleaning and hygiene measures for the museum's infrastructures

Restaurant and Bistro BEY

From Monday 11 May, the Restaurant Beyeler im Park will for the time being open only its garden terrace. It will implement a safety plan in accordance with the Swiss Federal Council's guidelines for catering establishments. The food and beverages menu will be adapted to the situation. The restaurant will further offer lunch packs that may be ordered via the online ticketing system, allowing visitors to round off their museum visit with a picnic in the park. The Bistro BEY remains closed until further notice.

Fondation Beyeler park

Over a few months in lockdown, being out in nature has acquired renewed value. The Fondation Beyeler's expansive park, with its three water lily ponds, invites visitors to linger and take their time. Springtime is here. The sumptuous blossoms of the magnolia trees, rhododendrons and azaleas are on full display. Around the Lange Erlen, the landscape allows for long walks.

The "Edward Hopper" exhibition is organised by the Fondation Beyeler in cooperation with the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, the worldwide major repository of Hopper's work.

The exhibition is generously supported by:

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The «Goya» exhibition is generously supported by:

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Press images are available under www.fondationbeyeler.ch/pressebilder

Image: Edward Hopper, *Cape Cod Morning*, 1950, oil on canvas, 86.7 x 102.3 cm, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the Sara Roby Foundation; © Heirs of Josephine Hopper / 2019, ProLitteris, Zurich;
Photo: Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gene Young

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