

## Press Release

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### **„Image. Max Ernst in Photographs“**

#### **Exhibition at Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR from January 15, 2023**

Next to Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, Max Ernst (1891–1976) is one of the most photographed artist personalities of the 20th century. He was portrayed under various circumstances and in a variety of contexts. Private snapshots, classic portraits and posed arrangements with artist friends tell of his multifaceted personality and his colourful artist life.

The spectrum of the around 150 selected images, which originated at various times and occasions, provide a photographic perspective on his life, which was marked by his personal experience of two world wars and historical upheavals, by changes of location and his involvement with the group of Dadaists and Surrealists, first in the Rhineland, then in Paris, later in exile in the USA, as well as in Europe.

The exhibition presents the extensive collection holdings of the museum, for the first time including an endowment of the artist Dorothea Tanning, the fourth wife of Max Ernst. With photographs from, among others, Berenice Abbott, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Yousuf Karsh, Robert Lebeck, Lee Miller, Arnold Newman, Irving Penn, Edward Quinn and Man Ray the show is dedicated to the question of the artist's image.

A comprehensive catalogue of the museum's photography collection is published in occasion of the exhibition, which is on display **from January 15 until April 23, 2023**. The collection of art and documentary photographs comprises around 900 works from various thematic fields, which are represented exemplarily within the exhibition: photographic portraits and reportages, Max Ernst in the studio, his artistic environment, his private life and public events.

**The curator and head of collection Friederike Voßkamp explains:** “The broad spectrum of perspectives on Max Ernst in the medium of photography can be comprehended on the basis of the photographic collection of the Max Ernst Museum. The exhibition provides insights into his life and work, his presence in both public and private life, making it possible to trace the “image” of the artist in both a real and figurative sense. The photographs not only reflect the individual perspectives of the respective photographers on Max Ernst, but instead also convey the will to representation and presentation of the artist. This alternation between self-image and perception by others can be experienced especially impressively here in the medium of photography.”

**Madeleine Frey, the new Museum Director, adds:** “The ‘Image. Max Ernst in Photographs’ exhibition draws on the holdings of the photographic collection of the Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR, which has in the meantime grown to include more than 900 photographs. Since the 1980s, the foundation of the holdings of art photographs in the classic sense and photographs of a primarily documentary nature has been the collection of the City of Brühl, ownership of which has since been transferred to the Max Ernst Foundation in the Max Ernst Museum. It has since been possible to continually supplement and enrich the collection with several acquisitions and endowments. We are incredibly pleased that new perspectives on the life of the artist Max Ernst and his work are being made possible and made accessible to a broad public with the exhibition and the inventory catalogue.”

### **Further Information: The Max Ernst Museum**

The museum is dedicated to the life and work of the seminal artist, image poet, and cosmopolitan Max Ernst (1891–1976). The modern museum building is located in Brühl next to Cologne, the birthplace of the artist. Numerous paintings, drawings, frottages, and collages as well as an unique collection of more than 70 bronze casts and sculptures invite visitors to immerse themselves in the fantastic worlds of Max Ernst's imagination.

To follow actual discourses and new perspectives on surrealism and Max Ernst's art, the Max Ernst Museum organizes temporary exhibitions with international artists ranging from the classical modern to the present.

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### **Your contact for editorial questions and image requests:**

Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR (Rhineland Regional Council)

Press and Media Work / International Public Relations

Doris Vogel / Jari Ortwig

Phone +49 (0) 2232 5793 -111 / -119

Email: [doris.vogel@lvr.de](mailto:doris.vogel@lvr.de) / [jari.ortwig@lvr.de](mailto:jari.ortwig@lvr.de)

### **Visitor Service:**

Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR

Comesstraße 42 / Max-Ernst-Allee 1,

50321 Brühl (near Cologne, Germany)

Phone +49 (0) 2232 5793 -0

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**Further information: [www.maxernstmuseum.lvr.de](http://www.maxernstmuseum.lvr.de)**

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