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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Kulturforum, Gemäldegalerie**

Matthäikirchplatz, 10785 Berlin

Special opening hours: Tue – Fri 10 am – 6 pm, Sat + Sun 11 am – 6 pm

**David Hockney – Landscapes in Dialogue**  
**The "Four Seasons" of the Würth Collection in Berlin**

9 April – 10 July 2022

A special exhibition of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin and the Würth Collection

**David Hockney is considered one of the most influential artists today. With the large-format *Three Trees near Thixendale* from the Würth Collection, Hockney turns his attention to the atmospheric changes that occur in nature during the seasonal cycle in his native Britain. These works are displayed in dialogue with a selection of landscapes from the collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in order to highlight Hockney's engagement with the art of previous centuries and the parallels to great models such as Rembrandt, Constable, and van Gogh.**

After studying at the Royal College of Art in London, David Hockney (\* 1937 Bradford) first travelled to California in 1964, which was to become his home for many years. His experiments with acrylic paint and Polaroids resulted in his series of iconic swimming pool paintings, which caused an international sensation. Through his constant exploration of a variety of techniques, from lithography to photo collage, and his interest in a wide range of art forms, from set design to landscape painting, Hockney continues to influence and impact many fields today with his joy of experimentation.

In the 1990s, the artist began to engage with the nature of his British homeland Yorkshire. In accordance with his view that photography could not capture the beauty of Yorkshire, he declared war on the camera and at the same time used it as a technical tool to realise his ideas on a large scale. His recent landscape paintings blend traditional techniques and digital possibilities. They reveal his preoccupation with the art of previous centuries as well as his own observation and depiction of the North American and English landscape. In an exploration of the artists that preceded him, Hockney reexamines the question of the realism of these landscape depictions as well as our habits of seeing and perceiving the world around us.

The special exhibition in the Wandelhalle of Berlin's Gemäldegalerie places Hockney's monumental landscape cycle *Three Trees near Thixendale* (2008-2009) from the Würth Collection in relation to a selection of landscapes from the collections of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin. Works from the Alte Nationalgalerie, the Gemäldegalerie, and the Kupferstichkabinett thus provide an insight into the diversity and richness of the genre of landscape painting, which were reprised in David Hockney's large-scale paintings.

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Stauffenbergstraße 41  
10785 Berlin

**MECHTILD KRONENBERG**  
HEAD OF DIVISION

**MARKUS FARR**  
PRESS OFFICER

Tel: +49 30 266 42 3402  
Mobile: +49 151 527 53 886

presse@smb.spk-berlin.de  
www.smb.museum/presse



In addition to paintings by masters such as Jacob van Ruisdael, Meindert Hobbema and Richard Wilson, the special exhibition also shows works by Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn, Vincent van Gogh and John Constable, whose landscapes served as models for Hockney. The juxtaposition reveals parallels to the older works, whose technique, composition, and perspective, but also their atmosphere and mood were meticulously studied by Hockney. The exhibition brings the works into a dialogue with each other for the first time. The show not only bears witness to the importance of the landscape painting genre, its popularity and its influence to this day, but also reveals its complexity and multifaceted nature.

The exhibition also includes the recently rediscovered Rembrandt work *Landscape with Arched Bridge*. For over 30 years, the painting was considered to be the work of Rembrandt's student Govert Flinck. According to the latest research, however, the work is by the master himself and now completes the globally important Rembrandt holdings of the Gemäldegalerie, which now include 20 works.

The Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin have been collaborating with the Würth Collection for many years. Since its reopening in 2006, the Bode-Museum has presented a selection from the Kunstkammer Würth's holdings in a cabinet set up especially for this purpose. Since then, numerous works of art have been on display in mutual exchange in Berlin and in Schwäbisch Hall – most recently in the exhibition *Anthony Caro. The Last Judgement Sculpture of the Würth Collection* in 2019/20 and the ongoing special exhibition *Illustrious Guests. Treasures from the Kunstkammer Würth* currently at the Kunstgewerbemuseum.

The exhibition is accompanied by a free booklet in German and English.

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