



Berlin, 25 October 2023

PRESS PREVIEW INVITATION

Kulturforum, Neue Nationalgalerie

Potsdamer Straße 50, 10785 Berlin

Tue + Wed 10am – 6pm, Thu 10am – 8pm, Fri – Sun 10am – 6pm

**Extreme Tension. Art between Politics and Society
The Nationalgalerie Collection from 1945 until 2000**

18 November 2023 – 28 September 2025

A special exhibition by Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Press preview: Wednesday, 15 November, 11am

Opening: Friday, 17 November, 7pm

We are happy to invite you to the press preview of the exhibition *Extreme Tension. Art between Politics and Society* on Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 11 am at Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin.

The art of the second half of the twentieth century is marked by an enormous diversity of materials, mediums, and methods. At the same time, hardly another era was so characterized by division, rupture, and transformation as the period after the Second World War. In light of this, the Neue Nationalgalerie has chosen the title “Extreme Tension” for the upcoming presentation of its postwar collection. Holocaust and war, upheaval and emancipation, the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall all led not only to tensions within society, but also to a fundamental realignment in visual art. The exhibition will address central artistic and social themes of the twentieth century in 14 sections, including realism and abstraction, politics and society, the everyday and Pop, feminism, identity, and nature and ecology. The presentation will encompass key works from West and East Germany, Western Europe and the USA, and former Socialist countries. The works on display will come from the art informel movement and US-American color field painting, Pop art and Minimalism, as well as the conceptual art of artists like Marina Abramovich, Joseph Beuys, Francis Bacon, Lee Bontecou, Rebecca Horn, Valie Export, Wolfgang Mattheuer, Louise Nevelson, Bridget Riley, Pipilotti Rist, and Willi Sitte. The collection will be supplemented by a number of works and artists, such as Kiki Kogelnik and Ewa Partum, not yet represented in the collection.

In attendance:

Klaus Biesenbach

Director, Neue Nationalgalerie

Joachim Jäger

Deputy director, Neue Nationalgalerie, co-curator of the exhibition

Maike Steinkamp

Curator, Neue Nationalgalerie, co-curator of the exhibition

Marta Smolińska

Professor at Magdalena Abakanowicz University of Art Poznań, co-curator of the exhibition

To attend the press preview, please send us an email by **Tuesday, November 14, 2023:** presse@smb.spk-berlin.de

Media cooperations: Der Tagesspiegel, Exberliner, monopol and tipBerlin

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