

LOVIS CORINTH
LIFE, A CELEBRATION!

Upper Belvedere
18 June to 3 October 2021



Lovis Corinth, Dancing Dervish, 1904
Buchheim Museum der Phantasie, Bernried am Starnberger See
Photo: Nikolaus Steglich, Starnberg

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Life as an excess of color: Lovis Corinth's universe was one of blazing joie de vivre and intoxicating sensuality. The artist left behind a body of work that defies any classification in terms of art-historical epochs or categories; yet in his paintings, he managed more than most to portray life in all its facets. The Belvedere now pays tribute to Lovis Corinth in a comprehensive exhibition.

Stella Rollig, CEO of the Belvedere says: „Even at the time, the art of Lovis Corinth represented a kind of antithesis to that of Gustav Klimt's – and it is precisely for this reason that it must be shown at the Belvedere. With his expressive, impulsive painting style, Corinth was for decades a gentle beast standing apart from mainstream art historical trends..“

German artist Lovis Corinth was a founding member of the Munich Secession. Together with Walter Leistikow and Max Liebermann he was one of the leading figures and First Chairman of the Berlin Secession. Corinth was a crossover artist, seducer, bon vivant, and sensualist: he and his wife, Charlotte, were a constant presence in Berlin's social life. While enjoying his life to the fullest, he was also aware of the transience of everything earthly. This is reflected in his contradictory and unique work. His paintings cannot be categorized as Symbolism, Impressionism, or Expressionism, yet his works combine their stylistic elements. Even today, his work defies any art-historical classification.

Alexander Klee, curator of the exhibition, explains: „*Contradiction and vitality define Lovis Corinth's work, drawing together joie de vivre and morbidity, a delicate use of color and the ferocious application of paint.*“

Based on the artist's choice of subjects, the exhibition examines Corinth's self-image as a painter, his unique position in art history, and the areas of tension and ambivalence in his artistic oeuvre and biography. The wide variety of motifs reflects his sweeping intention to depict life in all its dimensions. His paintings range in composition from a refined, almost academic application of color and arrangement to a practically ecstatic style of painting.

The exhibition is organized according to themes Corinth pursued over his many decades of artistic production: family; still life, including the vanitas motif, which accompanied him throughout his life and appeared early on in his violent slaughterhouse paintings; the body and nudes, as well as his pre-eminent position as a (self-)portraitist; his stylistic and thematic transgressions, expressed primarily in mythological or literary themes; and finally, his landscapes, which he painted primarily later in life during numerous sojourns at his summer home at the Walchensee.

The exhibition is based on the holdings of the Belvedere – which owns nine outstanding paintings – and the Saarlandmuseum in Saarbrücken, supplemented by numerous loans.

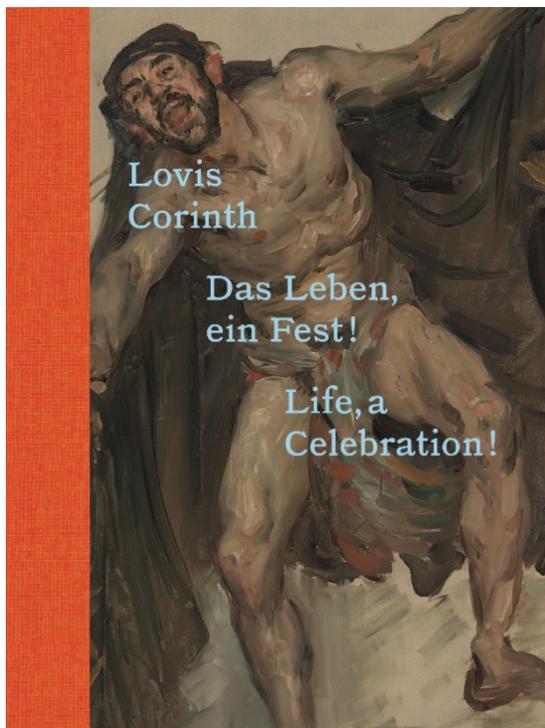
Following its presentation at the Belvedere, the exhibition will be on view at the Saarlandmuseum as of November 2021.

BIOGRAPHY OF LOVIS CORINTH

- 21 July 1858 Franz Heinrich Louis Corinth is born in Tapiau, Eastern Prussia (today Gvardeysk, part of the Kaliningrad region of Russia). He decides at an early age to become a painter, which his father supports.
- 1876 Begins his studies at the academy of Königsberg with Otto Günther.
- 1880 Corinth transfers to the Munich Academy at the recommendation of his teacher. Outside of Paris, it was considered the most progressive center for painting at the time.
- 1884 Studies in Antwerp with Paul Eugène Gorge. Residency in Paris as a student of Tony RobertFleury and Adolphe-William Bouguereau. Corinth is unaware of trends in realism, such as Gustave Courbet's, and Impressionism.
- 1887/88 Residency in Berlin. Corinth befriends Walter Leistikow, and changes his name from Louis to Lovis.
- 1891 Corinth settles in Munich.
- 1892 Corinth joins as a founding member the Munich Secession, which vehemently opposes an anti-modernist history painting style. In the same year, following internal disputes, the "Free Association" is formed. Corinth joins the association and as a result is expelled from the Munich Secession.
- 1900 The Munich Secession rejects Corinth's painting Salome. Through the agency of Leistikow, the work is exhibited successfully at the Berlin Secession. Corinth moves to Berlin. First exhibition in the gallery of Paul Cassirer, who represents him henceforth.
- 1901 Corinth joins the Berlin Secession and establishes his artistic and social position. He opens a painting school, with Charlotte Berend as his first student.
- 1902 Corinth is elected to the board of the Berlin Secession.

- 1904 Marriage to Charlotte Berend and birth of son Thomas.
- 1909 Birth of daughter Wilhelmine.
- 1911 After Max Liebermann's resignation, Corinth is elected First Chairman of the Berlin Secession. In December he suffers a stroke that leads to hemiplegia and several months of recuperation.
- 1918 Major retrospective at the Berlin Secession to mark Corinth's 60th birthday. Corinth travels with his family to the Walchensee for the first time. The landscape becomes his favorite motif.
- 1922 The German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale features works by Max Liebermann, Max Slevogt, Oskar Kokoschka, and Lovis Corinth.
- 1925 While traveling to Amsterdam, Corinth takes ill. He dies on 17 July in Zandvoort.

CATALOGUE



**Lovis Corinth. Das Leben, ein Fest! /
Life, a Celebration!**

Editors: Stella Rollig, Alexander Klee
(Belvedere), Andrea Jahn, Kathrin Elvers-
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EXHIBITION PROGRAM

The Exhibition Program can be found under www.belvedere.at/programm.
Subject to the current valid regulations!

Explore the exhibition with Smartify

Unleash the stories behind the works with our Smartify app. Immerse yourself in the world of Lovis Corinth and enjoy the audio tour at a price of € 1,99 directly on your smartphone.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Exhibition title | Lovis Corinth. Life, a Celebration! |
| Dates | 18 June 2021 to 3 October 2021 |
| Exhibition venue | Upper Belvedere |
| Works | 53 paintings, 1 film |
| Curator | Alexander Klee |
| Exhibition management | Agathe Boruszczak / Tatjana Gawron |
| Contact | Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-0 www.belvedere.at |
| Belvedere Art Education | Belvedere art education team T + 43 1 795 57-134 M public@belvedere.at |
| Opening hours | Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 6pm July / August daily from 10am to 6pm |
| Tickets | € 16 (Upper Belvedere) |
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For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos please visit <https://www.belvedere.at/en/press>.

#LovisCorinth