



vorarlberg museum

Angelika Kauffmann

Unknown Treasures from Vorarlberg Private Collections

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15. Juni - 06. Oktober

Angelika Kauffmann Museum Schwarzenberg

16. Juni - 03. November

Angelika Kauffmann (Chur 1741 – Rome 1807) was one of the most outstanding artists of the 18th century – adored and admired by Goethe and Herder, with queens and emperors among her clients. The well-educated painter, who had a talent for languages, made an unparalleled career. She was a living legend and is regarded as the first artist of European rank.

Kauffmann was a child prodigy and, following her educational trip through Italy, embarked on an artistic adventure to London, where she built a profitable circle of clients around her. She became a protégée of the English court and soon dominated the British art scene as an innovative historical painter and sought-after portrait painter. In 1782, the artist opened one of the most visited artist's workshops of her time in Rome. Not only did members of the high aristocracy and nobility heap orders on her, but so did commoners and clergymen. Her unusual rise began in Vorarlberg, the place where her father came from, and to which she felt attached throughout her life. This is where works of Angelika Kauffmann are collected to this day.

Around 30 private collectors from Vorarlberg, some of them for the very first time, show their paintings, drawings and graphic reproductions created by the famous artist. The curator Bettina Baumgärtel even managed to track down many works believed to have been lost forever in Vorarlberg. The exhibition is complemented by high-profile items on loan from the Kunsthaus Zürich, the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

The summer exhibition will be shown at two locations, the vorarlberg museum in Bregenz and the Angelika Kauffmann Museum in Schwarzenberg, and features some 160 paintings, drawings, graphic reproductions, sculptures as well as personal documents and illustrated books. How did Kauffmann become a master of etching? What image of women did she create with her art? Why did



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she become the favourite artist of London's high society? These and other questions are what the exhibition in Bregenz deals with in eight chapters. In Schwarzenberg, the home town of her father and first teacher, unique early works are shown side by side with her masterly later works. They forge a link to the Schwarzenberg church, where frescos painted by the young talent are confronted with the altarpiece of the adult and experienced master.

The exhibition is organised by the two Vorarlberg museums in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz in Saxony-Anhalt and the Angelika Kauffmann Research Project (AKRP).