

PRESS RELEASE

# STÄDEL'S BECKMANN / BECKMANN'S STÄDEL: THE FRANKFURT YEARS

9 DECEMBER 2020 TO 5 APRIL 2021

Exhibition house, first floor

Max Beckmann (1884–1950) is associated with Frankfurt and the Städel Museum like scarcely any other artist. Based in Frankfurt from 1915 to 1933, he produced a large share of his most important works here, developed his characteristic style, and in 1925 the city provided him with a master's studio at the School of Arts and Crafts. Numerous views of Frankfurt and portraits of friends and acquaintances testify to his ties to the city, which, much to his regret, he left in 1933 after being forced to resign from his teaching activity. Vilified as “degenerate”, Beckman fled Germany in 1937. He died in New York in 1950.

Because of his close connection with Frankfurt, the Städel Museum has intensely concerned itself for nearly a century with collecting and researching Beckmann's oeuvre, which has been presented in a large number of special exhibitions. The museum has continuously acquired works by the artist since 1918. With 11 paintings, 2 sculptures and more than 100 prints, the museum now has one of the most extensive Beckmann collections in the world. From 9 December 2020 to 5 April 2021, this special presentation is devoting itself to this body of work and Beckmann's Frankfurt years based on selected works and documentary material. The focus is on his famous *Self-Portrait with Champagne Glass* as well as his important lithography cycle *Die Hölle (Hell)*, which were both created in 1919 at a decisive point in his career and significantly influenced his further work.

**Curators:** Dr Alexander Eiling (Head of the Collection of Modern Art, Städel Museum), Dr Regina Freyberger (Head of the Collection of Prints and Drawings from 1750, Städel Museum)

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