

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

# THE MYSTERIES OF MATERIAL. KIRCHNER, HECKEL AND SCHMIDT-ROTLUFF

26 June to 13 October 2019

## ERNST LUDWIG KIRCHNER

- 1880 Born on 6 May in Aschaffenburg, the son of a paper chemist
- 1901–1905 Study of architecture at the Technische Hochschule Dresden, degree
- 1905 Co-founder of the artists' group *Brücke*
- 1909–1911 Summer excursions with Heckel to the Moritzburg Ponds near Dresden
- 1910 Visit to the collector Gustav Schiefler (1857–1935) – one of the *Brücke* artists' most important patrons and the author of the catalogue raisonné of Kirchner's printmaking œuvre (1926/31) – in Hamburg
- 1911 Move to Berlin, meets his later life companion Erna Schilling (1884–1945)
- 1912–1914 Regular summer stays on the North Sea island of Fehmarn
- 1913 Disbandment of *Brücke*
- 1915 Military service in Halle (Saale) for just a few months before suffering a nervous breakdown; in the autumn, release from the military; stays in different sanatoria
- 1916–1922 Exhibitions in the gallery of Ludwig Schames (1852–1922) in Frankfurt
- 1917 Move to Switzerland; stay of several months in the Bellevue Sanatorium in Kreuzlingen on Lake Constance
- 1918 Move to a farmhouse outside of Frauenkirch near Davos
- 1925/26 Last visit to Germany with stop in Frankfurt am Main
- 1937 Labelled a "degenerate artist"
- 1938 Commits suicide on 15 June in Frauenkirch-Wildboden near Davos

## ERICH HECKEL

- 1883 Born on 31 July in Döbeln, the son of a railway construction engineer
- from 1902 Friendship with Karl Schmidt(-Rottluff)
- 1904–1906 Study of architecture at the Technische Hochschule Dresden
- 1905 Co-founder of the artists' group *Brücke*
- 1907–1910 Stays of several months in the Dangast moor with Schmidt-Rottluff

- 1909 Trip to Italy; first excursion, with Kirchner, to the Moritzburg Ponds near Dresden to study the nude in natural surroundings
- 1910 Makes acquaintance of the dancer Milda Georgi (1891–1982), also known as Siddi Riha; marriage in 1915
- 1911 Move to Berlin, from now on repeated stays at the Baltic Sea
- 1913 Disbandment of *Brücke*
- 1914 Trip to Belgium and Holland
- 1915–1918 Medical orderly in Flanders, subsequent return to Berlin
- 1919–1941 Summer months in Osterholz on the Firth of Flensburg
- 1937 Labelled a “degenerate artist”
- 1944 Destruction of his Berlin studio in a bomb attack; move to Hemmenhofen on Lake Constance
- 1949–1955 Professor at the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe
- 1970 Dies on 27 January in Radolfzell on Lake Constance

#### **KARL SCHMIDT-ROTTLUFF**

- 1884 Born on 1 December in Rottluff near Chemnitz, the son of a miller
- from 1902 Friendship with Erich Heckel
- 1905–1906 Study of architecture at the Technische Hochschule Dresden
- 1905 Co-founder of *Brücke*
- 1907–1912 Stays of several months in the Dangast moor, usually with Heckel
- 1908 Personal acquaintance with the art historian Rosa Schapire (1874–1954), the author of the catalogue raisonné of his printmaking œuvre (1923)
- 1910 Initial contact to the poet and art historian Wilhelm Niemeyer (1874–1960), soon his most important patron
- 1911 Move to Berlin
- 1913 Disbandment of *Brücke*; first stay at Nidden on the Baltic Sea
- 1915–1918 Soldier in Northern Russia and Lithuania; return to Berlin after the war
- 1920–1931 Summer months in Jershöft on the Baltic Sea; various travels
- 1919 Marriage to the photographer Emy Frisch (1884–1979)
- 1937 Labelled a “degenerate artist”
- 1941 Prohibited from practising his profession
- 1943 Destruction of his Berlin studio by a bomb attack; move to Rottluff
- 1946 Return to Berlin
- 1947–1954 Teacher at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Berlin-Charlottenburg
- 1976 Dies on 10 August in West Berlin