

PRESS RELEASE

IMPRESSIONISM AND REALISM FROM AUTUMN AT THE STÄDEL

**MAJOR EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO CARL SCHUCH AND MODERN FRENCH
PAINTING FROM 24 SEPTEMBER / TICKET PRE-SALES NOW OPEN**

Frankfurt am Main, 5 June 2024. The Städel Museum is dedicating a major exhibition to Impressionist and Realist painting from 24 September 2025. The focus is on Carl Schuch (1846–1903), arguably the most famous “unknown” protagonist of late 19th-century painting. Although largely ignored by the public during his lifetime, Schuch’s work attracted considerable attention from critics, museums, and collectors after his death—only to be forgotten again. With “Carl Schuch and France”, the Städel Museum presents a brilliant rediscovery, bringing together Schuch’s fascinating paintings with important works of French art, including paintings by Paul Cézanne, Camille Corot, Gustave Courbet, Édouard Manet and Claude Monet. The exhibition focuses on Schuch’s years in Paris. A restless cosmopolitan, he settled in the metropolis in 1882 and experienced the most productive phase of his artistic career there.

Philipp Demandt, Director of the Städel Museum: “With our major autumn exhibition, ‘Carl Schuch and France’, we are continuing our programme of discoveries and rediscoveries. To this day, Carl Schuch is known only to a few, yet his paintings are a feast for the senses, with their captivating interplay of light and colour. We invite our visitors to experience the fascination of Schuch in Frankfurt through encounters with outstanding paintings of French Realism and Impressionism by Courbet, Manet and Cézanne.”

Carl Schuch translated his sensory impressions into “pure painting” characterised by subtle tonal gradations and sonorous colour harmonies. While plein air painting was his focus in the summer, still life was his main area of experimentation in the studio. To explore different colour effects, he varied a fixed repertoire of motifs in ever new constellations. He was interested in complementary contrasts and the way colours change through light and shadow, as well as colour mixtures and new colourants. Schuch repeatedly transferred the outstanding painting technique he had tried and tested in still lifes to his landscape paintings.

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Schuch intensively studied the work of his role models—in addition to his German colleagues, such as Wilhelm Trübner and Wilhelm Leibl, he was particularly interested in his French contemporaries. The latest art technological investigations by the Städel Museum offer exciting insights into the creation of his paintings. Schuch's free use of colour and his unmistakable signature style make his paintings a genuine discovery.

Admission tickets for the exhibition "Carl Schuch and France" are now available online at staedelmuseum.de/en/tickets.

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Curators: Dr Alexander Eiling (Head of Modern Art, Städel Museum), Dr Juliane Betz (Deputy Head of Modern Art, Städel Museum), Dr Neela Struck (Associate Curator, Modern Art, Städel Museum), in collaboration with Dr Roland Dorn (author of the Carl Schuch catalogue raisonné).

Exhibition Dates: 24 September 2025–1 February 2026

Press Preview: Tuesday, 23 September 2025, 11 am

Information: www.staedelmuseum.de/en/

Visitor Services and Guided Tours: +49 (0)69-605098-200, info@staedelmuseum.de

Location: Städel Museum, Schaumainkai 63, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

Tickets: €18, reduced €16; Tuesday Special: Every Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., €9

Free admission for children under 12 years. Groups of 10 or more paying the regular price: €16 per person.

All groups must register in advance by calling +49(0)69-605098-200 or emailing info@staedelmuseum.de.

Special opening hours can be found at staedelmuseum.de/en.

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Media Partners: Süddeutsche Zeitung, ARTE, Verkehrsgesellschaft Frankfurt am Main

Educational Programme: The educational offerings include a Digitorial®, an audio guide app, a printed booklet, as well as a diverse programme featuring guided tours in German and English, studio courses for adults, teenagers, and children, and a exclusive behind-the-scenes insight.

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