

Foto: Modernity in Central Europe, 1918–1945

Related events around town



Together with the exhibition *Foto: Modernity in Central Europe, 1918–1945* at the National Gallery of Art—Washington, DC, area embassies, museums, and cultural institutions will feature films, concerts, lectures, and exhibitions of the Modernist Period.

Photo courtesy of Ondřej Havelka & His Melody Makers' Archive.

Foto: Modernity in Central Europe, 1918–1945

June 10–September 3, 2007

This exhibition is the first survey—including more than 150 photographs, books, and illustrated magazines—ever done on the story of photography's extraordinary success and popularity in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, and Poland during a time of tremendous social and political upheaval. A diverse program of related lectures, films, and concerts includes six interrelated film series that present many works from Central Europe never before seen in the United States. The exhibition is sponsored by the Central Bank of Hungary.

National Gallery of Art

On the National Mall at 4th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20565

www.nga.gov/foto

(202) 737-4215

Free admission

Related events around town

Exhibitions

December 15, 2006–October 8, 2007

Give Me Your Children: Voices from the
Lodz Ghetto

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

March 17–July 29

Modernism: Designing a New World
1914–1939

Corcoran Gallery of Art

May 3–June 27

Roman Vishniac's Berlin

Sixth and I Historic Synagogue

June 22–August 24

Inward Turn – Photographs by
Lotte Jacobi

German Historical Institute

July 2–27

Exhibition: Magdalena Jetelová,
Iceland Project, 1992

Embassy of the Czech Republic

July 15, ongoing

On view: Jiří Kolář, Confrontations,
1950–51

The Hirshhorn Museum

August 3, 2007–January 6, 2008

Textiles of Klimt's Vienna

Textile Museum

September 7–October 26

The Palucca School in Dresden –
Photographs by Günter Bersch

German Historical Institute

Lectures

June 12, 6–8pm

Foto and Modernity: An Overview

German Historical Institute

June 26, 6–8 pm

Here Comes the New Photographer!

The 1929 Film und Foto Exhibition
and Photography's Emergence as a
Language

German Historical Institute

Concerts

June 29, 7:30 pm

Tonight Kurt Weill

Embassy of Austria

June 26, 6 pm

Ondřej Havelka & His Melody Makers

The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

Films

June 19, 6:30 pm

Modernism in Literature: Franz Kafka's
Metamorphosis

Goethe-Institut

July 3, 7 pm

American Masters: André Kertész of
the Cities

Embassy of Hungary

August 28, 6:30 pm

Battleship Potemkin

Goethe-Institut

2007

exhibitions

Roman Vishniac's Berlin

May 3—June 27

This photo exhibition of life in Berlin in the 1920s and 1930s showcases works by one of the master photographers of the 20th century, Russian-born photographer and biologist Roman Vishniac. Famous for his images of Eastern European Jewry between 1935 and 1938, Vishniac's less well-known Berlin photographs portray family and friends, everyday street scenes and Berlin characters, as well as Jewish life in the late 1930s.

*Sixth & I Historic Synagogue
600 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001*

*www.sixthandi.org
(202) 408-3100
Free admission*

Inward Turn – Photographs by Lotte Jacobi

June 22—August 24 (Opening: Friday, June 22, 6–8 pm)

Together with bookseller Steven Schuyler, the German Historical Institute has organized a small exhibition of photographs by Lotte Jacobi (1896–1990). Best known for her penetrating portraits of artists and intellectuals, Jacobi started her career during the Weimar Republic and personified the era's passionate commitment to innovation and experimentation. In the early years of the Third Reich, she emigrated to the United States, where she worked until her death.

*German Historical Institute
1607 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009-2562
Please RSVP to (202) 387-3355 or events@ghi-dc.org.*

*www.ghi-dc.org
Free admission*

Magdalena Jetelová, Iceland Project, 1992

July 2—27

The artist is known for creating monumentally charged sculptural works with which she addresses phenomenological experiences of time and space, history and the present, memory, and experience. Jetelová projected the glowing beam of a laser across the seam of lava massifs, flickering, disappearing in the mists of geysers marking the only place in the world where a borderline at which the continents of America and Africa-Europe were once joined. The group of black and white photographs on view provides evidence of an extraordinary visual event.

*Embassy of the Czech Republic
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008*

*www.mzv.cz/washington
(202) 274-9105
Free admission*

exhibitions

Jiří Kolář, Confrontations, 1950–51

July 15, ongoing

Beginning in mid-July, a recent acquisition of 10 important early collages by one of the most influential Czech artists, Jiří Kolář, will be on view in the Hirshhorn's permanent collection galleries on the third floor. Kolář started as a poet in the mid-1930s. However, at the beginning of the 1950s, crackdowns by the Czechoslovak communist regime prompted the artist to change from writing poetry with words to making poetry with images.

*The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
Independence Avenue at Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC*

*www.hirshhorn.si.edu
(202) 633-1000
Free admission*

Textiles of Klimt's Vienna

August 3, 2007–January 6, 2008

Join The Textile Museum in celebrating the splendor of turn-of-the-century Vienna in *Textiles of Klimt's Vienna*. Experience the vibrant art and social scene of Vienna at this time, led by painter Gustav Klimt, through the display of original material and photographs. Focusing on the era's Secession movement and Wiener Werkstätte (Vienna Workshop), the exhibition examines the artistic values and aesthetic development of the period through textiles.

*The Textile Museum
2320 S Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008-4088*

*www.textilemuseum.org
(202) 667-0441
Free admission: suggested donation \$5*

The Palucca School in Dresden – Photographs by Günter Bersch

September 7–October 26 (Opening: Friday, September 7, 6–8 pm)

In 1925, acclaimed dancer Gret Palucca opened a school in Dresden to teach Expressionist dance to a younger generation. Eighty years after the school's founding, photographer Günter Bersch traveled to Dresden to explore Palucca's legacy. Brigitte Hermann, a former Palucca student now with the Philadelphia dance company Imprints in Motion, will give a brief performance at the opening.

*German Historical Institute
1607 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009-2562
Please RSVP to (202) 387-3355 or events@ghi-dc.org.*

*www.ghi-dc.org
Free admission*

concerts

Tonight Kurt Weill

June 29, 7:30 pm

Austrian mezzo-soprano Elisabeth von Magnus is accompanied by Jacob Bogaart on piano in this musical revue with German, French, and American songs composed by Kurt Weill. Weill (1900–1950) remains best-known today for his collaboration with Bertolt Brecht during his Berlin years; he fled his native Germany in 1933 and established himself in Paris before eventually emigrating to New York City, becoming a successful composer of Broadway musicals.

Embassy of the Republic of Austria

3524 International Court, NW

Washington DC 20008–3035

Please RSVP to (202) 895–6776 or rsvp@austria.org

www.acfdc.org

Free admission

Ondřej Havelka & His Melody Makers

June 26, 6 pm

Ondřej Havelka & His Melody Makers perform popular music of the swing era, from the beginning of the 1930s to swing's heights in the 1940s. Their repertory includes a broad spectrum of tunes from Hollywood musicals to Czech and American big band and swing numbers. Artistic Director and lead singer/dancer Ondřej Havelka has enchanted audiences with his ironic tone, humor, liveliness, and smooth singing of such classics as *I Got Rhythm*, *I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise*, and *Isn't This a Lovely Day*. His supporting ensemble, the Melody Makers, systematically learns and masters interpretation techniques of the swing period, taking audiences back in time through song. The group puts on not only a spectacular concert, but a show that replicates the golden swing era—complete with costumes and hairdos.

For more information about Ondřej Havelka & His Melody Makers, visit www.melodymakers.cz.

The group sings in both English and Czech.

The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

2700 F Street, NW

Washington, DC 20566

www.kennedy-center.org

(202) 467–4600

Free admission

films

Modernism in Literature: Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis

June 19, 6:30 pm

A screening of *Metamorphosis* with a discussion by Irmgard Wagner (George Mason University).

What exactly do we mean when we describe an experience as “Kafkaesque”? This program explores the Modernist response to the confusions and contradictions of the modern world through an examination of Franz Kafka's short masterpiece *Metamorphosis*.

Goethe-Institut
812 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3718
Please RSVP to (202) 289-1200, ext. 173

www.goethe.de/washington
Free admission

American Masters: André Kertész of the Cities

July 3, 7 pm

This documentary by Teri Wehn-Damasch made in 1988 follows Hungarian-born photographer André Kertész in the last year of his life, traveling from New York City to Budapest and Paris, demonstrating the great influence each of these cities had on his life and his art.

Embassy of Hungary
2950 Spring of Freedom Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Please RSVP to (202) 966-7726 or rsvp.was@kum.hu

www.huembwas.org
Free admission

Battleship Potemkin

August 28, 6:30 pm

A screening of the newly restored 35mm version, with introduction and followup remarks by Peter Rollberg (George Washington University).

Regarded by many as the most influential film of all time, *Battleship Potemkin* (1925) portrays the rebellion of a Russian battleship's crew against their tyrannical officers during the revolution of 1905. Filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein experimented with montage and graphic violence to induce sympathy for the mutineers. *Battleship Potemkin* demonstrates the power of film to influence political thought through emotional response. With live musical accompaniment and spoken inter-titles.

Goethe-Institut
812 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3718

www.goethe.de/washington
(202) 289-1200
For tickets: www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe