

History, Society, and the Power of Creativity: Five German Artists



Gerhard Richter, Anselm Kiefer and Georg Baselitz are among the best-known and influential artists of the second half of the twentieth century, and are still very active today; the charismatic Joseph Beuys (d.1984), was among the first German artists emerging after the second World War to gain international recognition. Less popularly known, August Sander (d.1964) ranks among the most important twentieth-century portrait and documentary photographers. His *People of the Twentieth Century*, a photographic project of unprecedented ambition, provides unique insight into the various facets of German society during the Weimar Republic, the Nazi era and its immediate aftermath.

While German art of any period is not well represented in British public collections, these artists have been the

subject of intense scholarly and public interest in this country, particularly in more recent years, and have been represented by well-attended retrospectives, thematic exhibitions, and a sizeable number of books and articles.

Our series of five lectures is delivered by leading scholars in the field and aims to give an in-depth introduction to the work of these artists. Differing greatly in background and temperament, working methods and philosophical outlook, they nonetheless share a sustained engagement with Germany's dark past – and, in Sander's case, its troubling present.

Provisional timetable:

24 April	Dr Christian Weikop	Anselm Kiefer, title tbc
1 May	Dr Sarah James	August Sander, title tbc
8 May	Dr Victoria Walters	Joseph Beuys, title tbc
15 May	Professor Shulamith Behr	<i>Georg Baselitz, Neo-Expressionism and discourses on gender</i>
22 May	Dr Mark Godfrey	Gerhard Richter, title tbc