

*Media release, 9 October 2020*

## **The Lion is Hungry... Collection Presentation**

**10 October 2020 – 28 March 2021**



**Just like the lion that throws itself hungrily on the antelope in Henri Rousseau's painting, at the Fondation Beyeler we also feel a powerful hunger – for art: Especially in difficult times such as these, it is pleasing to remember how exciting and fascinating art is. From 10 October 2020 to 28 March 2021 our new presentation of collection highlights will feature a selection of legendary paintings and sculptures in eight rooms, all of them masterpieces of modern or contemporary art.**

The selected highlights include, at long last, Henri Matisse's iconic and fragile silkscreen prints, including *Nu bleu I*, whose elegance and spatial presence never cease to amaze. The display also includes the group of figures that Alberto Giacometti originally conceived for the Chase Manhattan Plaza in New York in the late 1950s. The *Homme qui marche*, long depicted on the one-hundred-franc bill, is part of this ensemble. A separate room is dedicated to Louise Bourgeois. Well acquainted with Giacometti, she expanded the concept of sculpture by making the unconscious, if not visible, then at least tangible. Other highlights include Wassily Kandinsky's encounter with Paul Klee, whose extraordinary friendship is being honoured in this form for the first time at the Fondation Beyeler.

Three very touching paintings created by Vincent van Gogh shortly before his death are exhibited together and brought into dialogue with works by Paul Cézanne and Edward Hopper. Abstract Expressionism is the focus of a further room, which presents works by Willem de Kooning, Clyfford Still, and Sam Francis, as well as a large-scale painting by Joan Mitchell. To be displayed for the first time is one of our most recent acquisitions: Susan Philipsz's moving sound installation *Seven Tears*; referring to the composition of the same name by Shakespeare's contemporary John Dowland, this work engages with the emotional states — accompanied by tears — between great joy and deep sorrow. Is this too melancholic? Not at all! Creativity mostly begins with melancholy, to which the magnificent works now once again on show at the Fondation Beyeler bear witness.

**Image:** Henri Rousseau, *The Hungry Lion Attacking an Antelope*, 1898/1905. Oil on canvas. 200 x 301 cm, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Beyeler Collection, Photo: Robert Bayer, Basel

**Press images** available at [www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images](http://www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images)

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**Museum opening hours: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily, Wednesdays until 8 p.m.**



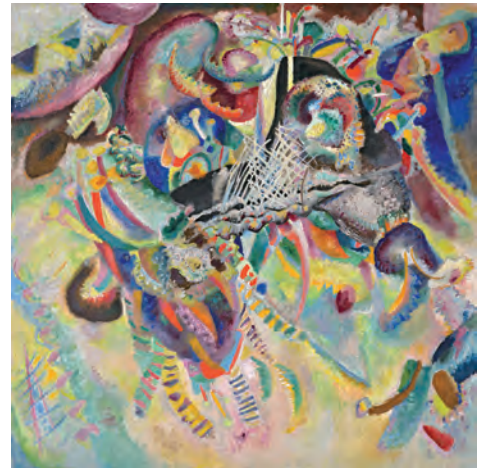
01 **Henri Rousseau**  
***The Hungry Lion Attacking an Antelope*, 1898/1905**  
Oil on canvas, 200.0 x 301.0 cm  
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Beyeler Collection  
Photo: Robert Bayer, Basel



02 **Louise Bourgeois**  
***SPIDER IV*, 1996**  
Steel, 198.0 x 175.0 x 53.3 cm  
Private Collection, New York  
© The Easton Foundation/2020, ProLitteris, Zurich  
Photo: Mark Niedermann



03 **Joan Mitchell**  
***Untitled*, 1957**  
Oil on canvas, 226.1 x 288.3 cm  
Private Collection  
© The Joan Mitchell Foundation Inc., New York  
Photo: Robert Bayer, Basel



04 **Wassily Kandinsky**  
***Fuga*, 1914**  
Oil on canvas, 129.5 x 129.5 cm  
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Beyeler Collection  
Photo: Robert Bayer, Basel



05 **Susan Philipsz**  
***Seven Tears*, 2016**  
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel  
Photo: Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover, 2016, Tamas Kende



06 **Vincent van Gogh**  
***Field with Stacks of Grain*, 1890**  
Oil on canvas, 50.0 x 100.0 cm  
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Beyeler Collection  
Photo: Robert Bayer, Basel

**Press images:** [www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images](http://www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images)

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